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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Tripartite Committee Issues Communique 4 Dec

LD0412205289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1725 GMT 4 Dec 89

["Text" of the communique issued in Riyadh 4 Dec by the Arab Tripartite Committee foreign ministers]

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Dec 89 SPA—The foreign ministers of the Arab Tripartite Committee member-states authorized to solve the Lebanese crisis have stressed the importance of all Lebanese sides complying with legitimacy, a matter which has been decided without any ambiguity. They have called on all Lebanese factions to exercise self-restraint and to handle issues with wisdom and patience in a manner that conforms with the constitution, the law, and usage operative within the Lebanese state. This came in the communique issued today [4 Dec] at the end of the Tripartite Committee foreign ministers' meeting, and which was read out by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister. Here is the text of the communique:

His Excellency Dr Abdellatif Filali, His Excellency Ahmed Ghozali, and His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal—the foreign ministers of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Algerian People's Democratic Republic, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—met 3-4 Dec in the city of Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the presence of Lakhdar Brahimi, the Arab Tripartite Committee envoy to Lebanon. They studied the Lebanese situation in light of their collective and individual contacts to deal with the Lebanese crisis.

In light of the directives of their three leaders, the ministers made a comprehensive appraisal of the stages which have been completed to realize the objectives approved by the Casablanca summit for solving the Lebanese crisis. They expressed their deep satisfaction with the positive steps according to which the comprehensive perception which was reached by the Tripartite Committee for solving the Lebanese crisis was put into operation. The positive results which were in the committee's communique issued in Jiddah on 16 September, the great achievement realized by the Lebanese deputies meetings in Al-Ta'if 30 September-22 October by adopting the Document of National Conciliation, and the communique issued by the committee on 22 October in the wake of the conclusion of those meetings, played a large part in placing the Lebanese crisis along the path of solution through the restoration of security as a prelude to peace, conciliation, and the revival of the Lebanese state's institutions under the aegis of sovereignty, independence, and unity. The election of the president of the Republic and the subsequent formation of the national concord government reaffirmed that the only solution to the Lebanese crisis is a solution which stems from Lebanese legitimacy, and that the question of peace and the revival of constitutional establishments to preserve Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence, is the only path in reaching such a solution. Those attending the meeting expressed anew, within this framework, their condemnation of the criminal act which led to the death of the late President Rene Mu'awwad. They demanded that all necessary efforts should be made to reveal the identity of the criminal hands which carried out that crime.

The conferees reviewed the current developments in the Lebanese arena that followed the formation of the new Lebanese Government, as well as the measures it has adopted to start implementing the al-Ta'if agreement, consecrate security and stability, and consolidate the pillars of peace in Lebanon. They reaffirmed the full support of the Tripartite Committee for the government and the steps it has taken in this respect. They also praised the courage of the Lebanese deputies and their composure in their resistance to the terrorist threats aimed at frightening them and preventing them from continuing the constructive role they are playing for the good of their country. The conferees pointed out Gen Michel 'Awn's rejection of the al-Ta'if agreement and that his nonrecognition of legitimacy constitutes the main obstacle to the march of national concord and is considered the main reason behind the dangerous escalations lately witnessed by the Lebanese arena. They called on all Lebanese belligerents to show self-restraint and deal with matters in this critical and delicate situation with wisdom, reflection, and commitment to everything that is in harmony with the constitution, the law, and customs in force in the Lebanese state to solve existing problems and overcome current obstacles and in this way to secure the unity of Lebanon, its land and people and consecrate its freedom, sovereignty, and independence.

The conferees also reviewed the stands of all international parties concerned by the situation in Lebanon and emphasized the need to continue supporting Lebanese legitimacy with the same strength and clarity they have demonstrated since the committee began its work.

They also emphasized the importance of all those international parties abiding by everything that goes with recognition of legitimacy in their dealings with the Lebanese state. The conferees then stressed the importance for all Lebanese sides to obey this legitimacy, as this issue has been settled in an unequivocal and unambiguous manner. They also stressed the need for these sides to open the way for the peace process and national reconciliation in order to achieve the goals pursued through it, and to realize the hopes pinned on it, since this is the best possible way to ensure a return to normal life in Lebanon and enable this country to recover its unity, sovereignty, and independence.

They also affirmed that the stands of rejection and continuous opposition operating outside the constitutional institutions could be contained and expressed through constitutional institutions once these are all established and within the framework of legitimacy. Otherwise, these stands will be considered a rebellion against legitimacy. Such a matter will impede the march

of the country toward unity, harmony, and peace and will push it into the whirlpool of partition, division, and dismemberment. This cannot be condoned, accepted, or passed over in silence.

Moreover, the ministers reiterated the resolution adopted by the Arab summit in Casablanca with regard to the determination to help Lebanon come out of its ordeal, end its suffering, strengthen all its legitimate institutions, extend the sovereignty of the state and its effective authority to the entire national territory of Lebanon, and implement the international resolutions calling for the total removal of Israeli occupation with a view to paving the way for the reconstruction of Lebanon and enabling it to resume its role within the Arab family and international arena.

The ministers also stated that the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee has achieved in the 6 months since its creation the essential part of the tasks defined in the resolution of the Casablanca summit by enabling the constitutional institutions in Lebanon to resume their activities with a comprehensive recognition and total support from the international community. They also affirmed what had already been announced by the leaders of the Tripartite Committee concerning continuation of the implementation of the Al-Ta'if agreement in the next phase by the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee and other arab states in a way which will be agreed upon with the legitimate authorities in Lebanon.

Within the framework of the directives of the leaders of the three states a comprehensive report will be prepared to be presented to their majesties and excellencies the kings and presidents of the Arab states.

Arab League's Klibi on EEC Boycott of Libya, Syria

LD0412234789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Textg] Chedli Klibi in a press statement has urged Israel to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, as it is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Concerning the Euro-Arab dialogue, the secretary general of the League of Arab States said the League has for several months been making intensive efforts vis-a-vis the European community to persuade the latter to lift the European boycott of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Syria.

The Presidency and several members of the community have displayed a readiness to look into this subject. The Paris meeting between the foreign ministers of the two communities—the Arab and the European—will provide an opportunity for continuing efforts in this direction.

GCC Official on Muscat, Bush-Gorbachev Talks

JN0212190789 Manama WAKH in English 1645 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text]Manama, Dec 2 (GNA)— GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Sayf Ibn-Hashil al-Maskari affirmed on the importance pinned upon the next GCC summit and described it as "the summit of tranquility."

In an interview with Bahraini daily 'AL-AYYAM' published today, al-Maskari said that among the issues the GCC summit will discuss, the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations, and how to boost the U.N secretary general's efforts toward motivating the status quo code-named "no-war-no-peace."

Asked whether the Muscat summit will offer an initiative to revive the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations, al-Maskari clarified that the GCC states do not wish to play the role of the U.N secretary general, who has recently dispatched his envoy to the two countries.

Regarding the dialogue among the GCC states, he pointed to the role which the UAE [United Arab Emirates] and Bahrainh have followed to know the other side's will in seriousness of holding dialog the basis of sound neighbourliness.

On the GCC's role in solving the Lebanese crisis, al-Maskari affirmed that the Arab six-member committee, headed by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has strengthened the Gulf action toward the Lebanese crisis, while the Supreme Arab Tripartite Committee, as Saudi Arabia has declared, will pursue in its support to the legitimacy and the implementation of al-Ta'if agreement.

As for the GCC states' expectations for the U.S.-Soviet summit, Al-Maskari said that in light of the current international detente, it is important that the big powers summit look into the Palestinian question, for it represents the core of problems in the Middle East, with some concern and concentration, because reaching a solution to this issue will reflect a state of tranquility on the entire region.

Arab Interior Ministers Hold Conference in Cairo

Sudanese Interior Minister Arrives

NC2911104689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1023 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—Brigadier General Faysal Abu-Salih, Sudanese minister of the interior, arrived in Cairo today for an official visit lasting several days. During his stay, he will attend the Arab interior ministers conference due to open on Friday under the auspices of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

The Sudanese minister said the security situation in Sudan is very reassuring. He noted that the situation is

more stable than it used to be and that the minor incidents taking place in Sudan are merely routine problems that happen in all parts of the world. [passage omitted]

Somali Interior Minister

NC3011110089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 November (MENA)—Somali Interior Minister Ahmed Suleiman Abdallah arrived in Cairo early this morning for a visit to Egypt expected to last several days.

The Somali interior minister, who is leading a delegation, will attend the Arab interior ministers meeting which is due to begin in Egypt tomorrow.

Qatari Minister Arrives

NC3011110689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1018 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani arrived in Cairo this morning to attend the Arab interior ministers meeting which will begin in Cairo tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Interior Minister

NC3011125289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Iraqi Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab arrived in Cairo this afternoon to attend the Arab interior ministers meeting which will begin tomorrow, Friday.

Interior Minister Zaki Badr and Akram Nash'at, secretary general of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, received him at the airport.

Libyan Justice Minister Arrives

NC3011141189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—'Izz al-Din Al-Hinshiri, secretary of the Libyan general people's committee for justice, arrived in Cairo at noon today to attend the Arab interior ministers conference due to open tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Interior Minister

NC3011160889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1527 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Lebanese Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit of several days. During his stay, he will attend the Arab interior ministers conference due to open in Cairo tomorrow, Friday. [passage omitted]

Syrian Interior Minister Arrives

NC3011160789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1543 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah arived in Cairo today to attend the Arab interior ministers conference which will open tomorrow, Friday. In an arrival statement, the Syrian minister expressed his happiness to be in Egypt and participate in the conference. He also expressed his optimism over the prospects of Egyptian-Syrian relations. He noted that brotherly relations between the two countries have never been interrupted in the past.

Saudi Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

NC3011175189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1729 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz arrived in Cairo this evening to attend the Arab interior ministers conference due to open in Cairo tomorrow.

In an arrival statement, he voiced his pleasure to visit Egypt and attend the conference at the invitation of Interior Minister Zaki Badr.

He said that during his visit he will discuss security for pilgrimage to holy Mecca as well as ways to curb drug trafficking.

Zaki Badr received the Saudi interior minister upon his arrival.

Sidqi Inaugurates Session

NC0112151789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak delegated Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi to inaugurate the 8th session of the Arab interior ministers council, which opened in Cairo today.

Dr Sidqi delivered a speech on behalf of President Mubarak. He said: This is the first meeting to be held here after Egypt restored its membership in the Arab League. Egypt has never been absent from the Arab world and it never stopped cooperating with its Arab sister countries in security fields. We have always been eager to establish ties of coopration and exchange of information and expertise with the Arab countries.

He added: This is an age of scientific and technological advancement in all spheres, especially in the field of crime. This requires us to consolidate our efforts to combat crime, terrorism, drugs, and psychological crimes. All these issues will be on the session's agenda.

He went on: Our nation has not been safe from terrorism, drug smuggling, or problems of economic and social nature. This session is significant as it will tackle

many security issues. This meeting asserts the need for security cooperation in light of the development in the field of crime.

Concluding his speech, Sidqi said: Cooperation must be built on well-studied scientific bases in all fields and on the exchange of expertise concerning Arab nation's security, safety, and stability, without which any economic development will be futile.

Prince Nayif Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi interior minister and honorary chairman of the Arab interior ministers council, addressed the session. He conveyed the greetings of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people.

He also reviewed the important joint Arab action achieved during previous Arab interior ministers conferences. He said Arab security is inseparable. There must be a uified stance vis-a-vis various challenges against the Arab nation and in confronting all aspects of perversity in our contemporary society.

Afterward, Akram Nash'at, secretary general of the Arab interior ministers council, addressed the conferees. He noted Egypt's role in defense of Arab causes, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue. He also greeted the heroes the Palestinian intifadah.

The deputy prime ministers, ministers, and interior ministers and ambassadors of 22 Arab countries attended the inaugural session, which will last for 3 days.

The conferees will discuss in their meetings a number of important and objective issues to consolidate Arab security cooperation and integration and to promote the performance of Arab security authorities. The council will also discuss a project to establish a regional center in Cyprus for the exchange of information on drugs as well as other projects on the agenda.

Ministers Hold First Session

NC0112213489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Interior Minister Zaki Badr chaired the Arab interior ministers council's first closed session this evening.

In his address to the conference, Badr said: We agree that Arab security must fulfill our nation's aspirations for further cooperation and cohesion. However, we are aware that the nature and gravity of the security issues are not decided by emotions, but are governed by the necessities of interest.

Saudi, Kuwaiti, Egyptian Ministers Cited

NC0112161989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1346 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—Prince Nayif Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi interior minister and honorary chairman of the Arab interior ministers council, has stressed that security is one of the important aspects of Arab societies. He emphasized the need for Arab security organs to coordinate their efforts and to cooperate in various fields to ensure stability and security for the Arab citizen.

In a statement to MENA, he noted that to achieve stability is a basic and primary requirement for all Arab peoples, who are aware of [words indistinct]

He said: We all agree on the importance of joint Arab security work and that security is what provides stability and prosperity, which allow the continuation of social and economic development and progress programs.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al- Salim has affirmed that Kuwait's security makes it a stable country, in which there are no organized or terrorist crimes except for minor crimes that occur in all other societies.

In a statement to MENA, he pointed out that Kuwait is working to achieve safety and stability for every citizen in Kuwait, be he a Kuwaiti or a foreigner. He noted that Kuwait tries to promote the performance of its security cadres. In this respect, he said, Kuwait sends them abroad, especially to Egypt, for training.

For his part, Egyptrian Defense Minister General Yusuf Sabri Abu- Talib stressed in a statement the Arab countries' interest in pan-Arab security, saying this security is an inseparable one.

He noted that the convening of the Arab interior ministers conference in Cairo is an assertion of Egypt's influence and immense potentials in all fields, especially in the security field.

Interior Ministers' Final Statement

NC0312153689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0939 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—The Arab Interior Ministers Council concluded its meetings in Cairo today. The council strongly condemned all forms of terrorism, particularly international terrorism. At the same time, it emphasized that the struggle of peoples for the sake of liberation is a "legitimate act" according to the principles of the United Nations and international law.

In its final statement, the council renewed its support for the the Arab Palestinian people's intifadah and condemned the inhuman practices of the tyrannical Zionist occupation against them.

The Arab Interior Ministers Council stressed its continued support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in all spheres until these people succeed in liberating their land and establishing an independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Arab Interior Ministers Council expressed support for the government of national accord in Lebanon and voiced satisfaction with the progress of national reconciliation and peace in that country in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement. It affirmed its support for this progress under the leadership of President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his legitimate government so that security and peace may be established in Lebanon. It praised the efforts of the higher Arab tripartite committee's efforts that led to the al-Ta'if agreement. It also commended all other Arab efforts which have supported the restoration of peace in fraternal Lebanon and the preservation of its Arab character and unity.

The council adopted a decision in which it praised the existing cooperation and coordination between the Arab Justice Ministers Council and the Arab Interior Ministers Council and urged further cooperation and coordination between them.

The council accepted an Egyptian Interior Ministry proposal for the exchange of information pertaining to felonies perpetrated by the nationals of any of the member states on the territory of another Arab state. It instructed its secretariat to form a committee that will determine the necessary measures to implement this proposal and to specify the criminal offenses about which information must be exchanged. It decided that this study will be submitted to the council's next session.

The council also discussed two proposals submitted by the General People's Committee for Justice in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. These provide for the facilitation of the movement and residence of Arab nationals in other Arab countries and limiting foreign infiltration into the Arab states. The council instructed its secretariat to prepare a study on these two issues in light of the views of the member states and to submit the study to the council's next session.

The council also approved its secretariat's operational program, the council's 1990 budget, and the budget of the Arab police sports federation. It decided to exempt Djibouti, Mauritania, and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen from paying their contributions to the council's budget.

Concerning the treatment of Palestinians in the Arab countries, the Arab Interior Ministers Council referred to its previous decisions on this issue and extended thanks to the countries that have implemented them. It appealed to the countries whose circumstances have prevented the implementation of these decisions to surmount the obstacles which preclude their implementation.

The council requested the joint delegation, comprising PLO, Arab League, and Arab Interior Ministers Council representatives, which has been instructed to visit the Arab countries to discuss this issue to complete its mission as soon as possible, to visit the countries it has not yet visited, and to submit its final report to the council's next session.

The Arab Interior Ministers Council adopted the third annual report on the implementation of the Arab security plan and the second annual report on the implementation of the interim plan for an Arab strategy to combat narcotics. It expressed appreciation for the efforts to implement the two plans and instructed the council's secretariat to form a working group to prepare an assessment of the parts of the plans which have been implemented so far and to propose ways to implement the remainder of the plans. The assessment will be submitted to the council's next session.

The council approved the recommendations issued by the conference of Arab police and security commanders, the conference of the heads of Arab narcotics departments, the conference of the heads of Arab immigration, passports, and nationality departments, the conference of the heads of Arab criminal investigation departments, the conference of the heads of Arab traffic and civil defense departments, the conference of the heads of Arab police public relations departments, and the conference of the heads of penal institutions. The conferences were organized by the council's secretariat.

The council also approved the recommendations issued by the committee for combating organized crime, and the committee for assessing and guiding media, cultural, and educational programs with regard to their effect on behavior and security.

Regarding the planned establishment of a regional center for the exchange of information on narcotics in Cyprus as proposed by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, the council decided to instruct its secretariat to obtain further information about the project and to prepare a study on it that will be distributed to the member states.

The council approved an amendment to the 11th clause of its statute in a manner that provides for the inclusion of the Arab police sports federation in the council's secretariat.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Figures Cited on Response to Baker Plan

Kamal Terms Response 'Positive'

NC0412165889 Paris AFP in English 1637 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Exerpt] Cairo, Dec 4 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization has given a positive response to the United States on a five-point framework for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, PLO representative Sa'id Kamal said here Monday.

Well-placed Egyptian sources said the PLO's position on the formula drafted by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had been officially communicated to the United States late Sunday.

In an interview with AFP, Mr. Kamal described the response as "positive" but would provide no further details.

"The way in which the Palestinian response will be announced is currently being discussed by Egypt, the PLO and the United States," he said.

The position of the organization, he added, represented a "Palestinian consensus" based on decisions taken by the PLO's central council at a meeting in Baghdad in October.

Mr. Kamal's remarks follow a report Sunday in the Jerusalem Post newspaper that the PLO had accepted the Baker formula after Washington agreed that the organization would have the right to approve the Palestinian delegation to any future dialogue with Israel. [passage omitted]

Kamal Denies Acceptance of Plan

JN0512091089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Dec 89 p 12

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Excerpt] Cairo—PLO Cairo Representative Sa'id Kamal has denied press reports that the PLO has accepted U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals to initiate a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo on elections in the occupied Palestinian territories.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Sa'id Kamal said only Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the State of Palestine and its official spokesman, can express the PLO's final stand toward any action related to this subject. Any other remarks, he added, will be premature.

The PLO representative in Cairo stressed that no negotiations would be held before contacts are held with Egypt and other Arab brothers, headed by Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria, in addition to the channels open with the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council.

AFP, however, cited Sa'id Kamal as saying that the PLO's reply to Baker's plan was "positive." An authoritative Egyptian source said yesterday that this reply was officially conveyed to the United States Sunday night.

Kamal added that the Palestinian reply was drafted on the basis of the resolutions taken at the PLO Central Council meeting in Baghdad in October. He indicated that the reply "enjoys a Palestinian consensus." He declined to disclose the details of the Palestinian reply and only said "the way in which the Palestinian reply will be announced is currently being discussed by Egypt, the PLO, and the United States."

Observers in Cairo believe that the PLO will delegate Egypt to officially announce the PLO's reply to Baker's proposals for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue as a first step toward holding elections in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Khalaf Says Reply 'Very Positive'

JN0512163489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Fatah Central Committee Member Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], said in Paris that on 1 December the PLO gave the United States, through Egypt, a very positive reply to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

'Sources' Affirm PLO Acceptance of Baker Plan

NC0512121289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1054 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Tunis, 5 Dec (MENA)—Responsible Palestinian sources affirmed that the PLO has accepted the 6 October Baker plan without amendment, in accordance with the Palestinian Central Council resolution to conduct a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and based on the PLO's right to form the Palestinian delegation and on condition that the dialogue agenda be open.

The sources described the Palestinian response as being one of maximum flexibility beyond which there can be no further resilience.

They noted that the responses, queries, and messages between Washington and the PLO through Cairo took a long time and were tiring, especially on the issue of Palestinian representation, which the PLO cannot relinquish.

The same sources disclosed that the Palestinian reply was delivered simultaneously last Friday to Egypt and to Pelletreau, U.S. ambassador in Tunis, and that the same reply was also conveyed to some Arab countries, the European Troika countries, Sweden, and the five permanent member countries of the UN Security Council.

The sources added that the Palestinian reply contains a review of the stages of dialogue between the PLO and the U.S. Administration.

Palestinian Official Cited on PLO Reply to Baker Plan

JN0412201089 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 3 Dec 89 p28

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] Late last night, the PLO submitted its final answer to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five point plan.

A ranking Palestinian official told AL-ANBA' that the Palestinian leadership held a meeting the night before last and approved the final Palestinian reply. The source added that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid telephoned prior to the Palestinian leadership's meeting and urged the PLO to delete two pages of the reply, which included a number of queries and rejections of the U.S. reply.

The Palestinian official said that 'Abd-al-Majid had proposed another formulation instead of the two pages,

in which mention is made of the date of the Baker plan—something the PLO insists on stressing—is deleted. This is the plan sent to the PLO on 16 October 1989, before Baker conceded to Israeli demands and amended it. 'Abd-al-Majid suggested deleting the word "only" from a phrase formulated by the PLO in the following way:

"Proceding from the PLO's fixed stand in the first reply, it can accept dealing with the Baker plan presented on 16 October only in accordance with the resolutior of its Central Council meeting in Baghdad on holdin_ Palestinian-Israeli dialogue."

On this point, the Palestinian official said that the formulation according to the Egyptian proposal changes their readiness to proceed on conditions to an outright approval of the plan.

The Egyptian foreign minister also proposed a short paragraph in place of the two pages, in which the PLO would express its concern over the U.S. policy not to deal with it on an equal footing with Israel. The PLO rejected this formulation in its meeting the night before last.

The Palestinian official expressed his belief that Egypt's urging the PLO to re-formulate its reply to the U.S. proposals came after Cairo saw that the original reply was deficient, needing more work and discussion, and refused to convey it to Washington. It demanded a reply that would in some way express a conditional acceptance of the U.S. formulation, as Israel did.

However, the PLO believed it was necessary to present a reply calling for written guarantees of its right to choose the Palestinian delegation and that the timetable be left open and not restricted to discussion of holding elections in Israel.

The Palestinian official revealed that the PLO submitted its reply directly to the United States. PLO Ambassador in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi met with the U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau the night before last for the third time in a week. He said that the PLO submitted its reply to the Baker plan to Egypt, a number of Arab countries, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the European Troika countries, and Sweden.

It should be noted here that the Palestinian reply to the Baker plan centers on two axes:

The first, refuting the U.S. reply through the following points:

1. The talk about forming the Palestinian delegation from major influential political forces in the Palestinian movement by-passes the PLO. Where are those forces? What has the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue throughout the last year been called?

2. Nobody has the right to interfere in how the PLO forms its delegation.

3. International supervision of the dialogue has been ignored from the very beginning, including the proposed international conference.

4. Setting a timetable for elections is a response to Israeli conditions and contradicts what has been agreed on by Egypt and the United States, namely that it be left open. This also contradicts the Shultz statement of 1988 in which he affirmed that every side has the right to say what it wants in the negotiations. He also said that Israel must abandon its grandiose goals.

The second axis includes the PLO's position on the plan along the following lines:

— Proceeding from the Palestinian peace initiative, the Casablanca summit resolutions, and international legitimacy, the PLO affirms:

1. Its concern for continuing international efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East region.

2. That negotiations must take place only on the bases specified by the PLO Central Council in its last session. They are:
a. Its willingness to hold dialogue between two delegations; one from the PLO, representing the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, and the other from the Israeli Government.
b. That the timetable be left open. Every side would have the right to present what it wants including the subject of elections and the 10 Egyptian points.
c. That the dialogue take place under UN auspices and with the presence of the five permament members of the UN Security Council, plus Egypt and Sweden.
d. That dialogue is a step along the road to the international conference, which will be held under UN supervision with the presence of the parties to the conflict and the permament members of the UN Security Council, based on Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Palestinian official expressed his belief that the PLO will receive a U.S. reply to its opinion today or tomorrow, especially since the U.S. Administration expressed its concern last week over not receiving the Palestinian reply to the Baker plan despite the fact that Egypt had received the reply more than 10 days ago.

Hawatmih Says U.S. Exerting Pressure on PLO

LD0412213889 Kuwait KUNA in English 2006 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 4 (KUNA)—The U.S. is excerting extensive pressure on the Palestine Liberation Organization in a bid to force it to accept State Secretary James Baker's five-point plan for elections in occupied Palestinian land, said Secretary General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Nayif Hawatmeh.

Addressing a rally at Palestine's embassy here tonight, Hawatmeh stressed that the PLO was strongly adhered to the right of the Palestinian state and the comprehensive

settlement within the framework of the international peace conference. "There is no way to deal with Baker's plan outside the framework of the resolutions of the Palestine National Council and the Palestinian Central Council.

Hawatmeh, who arrived for a brief visit, told the rally that Baker's plan was a prelude to implementing Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir's plan.

Saluting the uprising in the occupied land, Hawatmeh called for unleashing the capabilities of the Palestinians in the front-line states to enable them to contribute to the struggle against the occupiers.

He said the intifadah or uprising had stricken a political balance in the interest of the Palestinian question at the international level and created a mess within the Israeli community.

'First' Spain-PLO Accord on 'Terror' Data Reported

TA0412201789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The Spanish paper EL PAIS writes that the PLO has signed the first secret accord of its kind with Spanish Army intelligence regarding the exchange of information on matters pertaining to terrorist attacks. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus notes that the report states that the ties between the PLO and Spanish intelligence have recently grown closer. The PLO representative in Madrid refused to comment on the report, but did admit that his organization wants to maintain close security ties with Spain, and that Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], 'Arafat's deputy, told him that these links are already very good.

'Arafat, Palestinians Receive Soviet Message

LD0112230989 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Brother leader President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the State of Palestine, today received a message of greetings and solidarity from the Supreme Soviet Presidium on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The message says: The establishment of a lasting and stable peace in the Middle East is in the interest of the Palestinian people and all the people that live there, and responds to the efforts to consolidate security in the region and in the whole world. Due to the realistic and constructive policy of the PLO which was drafted by the Palestine National Council at its 19th session, favorable prospects emerged for settling the conflict in the Middle East and justly resolving the Palestinian problems. These prospects are in tune with developments in the international situation.

The dimensions of the popular mass movement witnessed in the occupied territories demonstrate a high level of national awareness enjoyed by the Palestinian people, and their insistence on achieving and securing their right of free and independent development. Today it is possible for one to confidently say that the intifadah has become a mighty element of influence on the situation inside and outside the region, and has raised a flood of sympathy and compassion toward the Palestinian people in the entire world.

The Soviet Union firmly supports the PLO and its efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict by political means based on balancing the interests of all concerned parties. The international legal mechanism recognized by all for achieving this objective is an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the PLO. This is a conference which the majority in the international community work unyieldingly to convene.

While reaffirming our solidarity with the friendly Palestinian people, we wish them success in the ups and downs of the struggle for self-determination and achieving their national aspirations.

Intifadah 'National Leadership' Issues Call No 49

JN0412203589 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1827 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Call No 49 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah in the occupied territories—date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call: No voice rises above the voice of the intifadah and no voice rises above the voice of Palestine's people, the people of the PLO. Call No 49, the call of development, escalation, and victory, issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI]:

O masses of our heroic Palestinian people, O masses of the intifadah and the heroes of the stones and the Molotov; O people of the State of Palestine, the people of the PLO: On the 9th of this month, our glorious intifadah will enter its 3d year of struggle, emphasizing its march and struggle to expel the occupation through our people's determination and strong adherence to their national right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil with holy Jerusalem as its capital; and also affirming day after day, hour after hour, and martyr after martyr the Zionist enemy's failure to quell the intifadah and end it in a bloody manner. All the liquidationist projects, which depend on or use Shamir's plan and which encroach on our national rights, will also fail as a result of the solidity of our political position based on the Independence Charter; the Palestinian peace initiative; our strong adherence to our right to freedom and independence; the high vigilance of our militant masses; our national decision; our righteous martyrs' decision; the decision of our wounded and captured heroes; and the decision of the overwhelming majority of our heroic people to deal a blow to the occupation by continuing, developing, and strengthening the intifadah until victory is attained.

O masses of the glorious intifadah: After 2 years of continuous struggle on all political, organizational, economic, and militant fronts, we are entering the 3d year stronger, more determined, firmer, and more experienced in moving the intifadah to a more advanced stage to enable the broad masses to participate in it; enhance their preparedness and sacrifice to promote and protect what has been achieved by our brave intifadah; declare Palestinian independence; and force the United States to open the door of dialogue with the PLO and make a gradual change in the Israeli position—a change represented in the need to find a political solution to the Palestine question; in the growing recognition of the State of Palestine; and in the broad international support for our people's right to self-determination, such as the decision of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO]. Despite U.S. hostility to our people's rights in the international arena, the Algiers and Casablanca summit resolutions supporting the intifadah and the Palestinian peace initiative are part of the achievements of the intifadah.

These achievements and the accumulation of daily victories are the only way to enable our people to exercise their inalienable national rights. Moreover, the distance we have covered with our masses in our glorious intifadah will not allow any retreat in our national unity, in the level of our struggle, and in the solidity of our political position. We also epitomize the people's national authority in confronting the occupation authority and the liquidationist plans, completing, at the same time, the requirements of developing and escalating the struggle and appreciating all the militant energies and the national effort to serve the intifadah.

For 2 long years, the Zionist entity has been suffering successive crises under the strikes of the valiant intifadah. It has been trying to get out of these crises by deflecting the intifadah, striking at it with all means, and proposing the election plan on the basis of Shamir's autonomy project. This stresses the fact that carrying the intifadah to higher militant stages based on the achievements and lessons of the continuing intifadah and on our basic slogan of establishing the independent state on our national soil requires, above all, that we complete the building of popular committees, their specialized subcommittees, national regional councils, and local councils. It also requires the unity of the mass movement in all its frameworks, and the involvement of wider sectors of masses in effective and concrete action within the intifadah and its popular organs with a view to expanding and intensifying aspects of disobedience and rebellion against occupation in the fields of trade, tax, management, and economy, as well as militant action in order to demolish the occupation's institutions and end our imposed dealings with them.

The UNLI, leader of our national struggle, joins our masses and the PLO—the leader of our national struggle and our sole, legitimate representative—in their joy over the growing world recognition of the state of Palestine. The UNLI denounces the arrogant U.S. position, whose latest manifestation appeared in the recent UN General Assembly session concerning the membership of our state, and also the U.S. position on the FAO resolution, which perpetuates the hostile U.S. stance and policy toward our people and their national struggle to wrest their freedom and independence. The UNLI calls upon the international community to confront the intransigent U.S.-Israeli position and to call for the convening of an effective international conference.

O heroic masses of our people, the UNLI congratulates comrades in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine under Dr George Habash on the 22d anniversary of its inception as a main faction of the PLO. It appreciates the Front's militant and national role and sends greetings and appreciation to struggler leader Dr George Habash. It repeats with him his sincere call during the 19th session of the Palestine National Council: Unity, unity until victory.

O heroic masses of our people: The UNLI appreciates the decision of the honorable Christian clerics and archbishops to confine Christmas celebrations to the performance of religious rituals. On this occasion, UNLI congratulates our kinfolk and the Christian world. O masses of our great people: As it boasts with you your great achievements and the might that you daily embody during the war of national liberation, UNLI stresses the following:

1. Firm adherence to the Palestinian peace initiative and non- submission to pressure aimed at driving the PLO to go back on it.

2. Continued solid confrontation by all available popular weapons and various militant means against the occupation army, its herds of settlers, and its agents.

3. Organizing a program of family solidarity and getting the broadest possible sectors of people involved in it. [Word indistinct] of our people take a prominent role in this respect and providing services and all possible assistance to the strugglers of the strike forces and members of the popular committees who are chased by the enemy.

4. Calling on our masses not to comply with donation campaigns in the name of UNLI.

5. Forming committes of national reconciliation and arbitration to solve differnces and problems on a sound national basis to deprive the enemies of our people of the opportunity [to divide our people]

6. The UNLI urges our masses and workers in the occupied Palestinian [West] Bank to be well prepared to wage the battle of the magnetic cards as soon as the occupation authorities begin to enforce the move.

7. The UNLI hails the women and men strugglers of the Palestinian revolution who are in Zionist captivity and calls for an enhanced level of national relations and for spreading democracy and closing of ranks in confronting

the plans of the repressive Zionist administration, as well as for extending the example of national relations to ANSAR-3.

8. The UNLI calls on Arab countries to comply with the Algiers and Casablanca summit resolutions.

9. As the UNLI asserts the right of our laborers to be affiliated to their Palestinian unions and for their right to be upheld through them, it appeals to the international trade unions movement led by the World Federation of the Trade Unions to apply pressure on the Israeli authorities to halt their repressive measures against Palestinian trade unionists and revoke the decisions closing down Palestinian unions.

Intifadah masses; masses of the state of Palestine: As we enter the 3d year of the intifadah, the UNLI calls upon you to enforce the following militant activities:

The 5th of December: A day of national action to see to the implementation of the decision to stop working in the Israeli settlements by way of paralyzing their industrial, construction, and services sectors.

The 7th, 8th, and 9th of December: Days of labor strikes when our valiant workers are to refrain from proceeding to their places of work in the Zionist areas. On these days, the land of the state of Palestine is to be declared a free zone when mass marches and festivities and military parades are to be held and then turned into massive demonstrations against occupation and settler herds and agents.

The 9th of December: A day of general strike to mark the first day of the 3d year of the intifadah, when Palestinian flags and nationalist slogans are to deck the walls and streets of our beloved homeland.

The 11th of December: A day of intense militancy to honor the anniversary of the launching of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The 12th of December: A day of national solidarity with the families of the heroic martyrs, prisoners, detainees, and the wounded.

The 13th, 14th, and 15th of December: Days of tilling the land and of winter agriculture.

The 16th of December: A day to protest the occupation authorities' expropriation of citizens' cars. Traffic is to observe a 5-minute halt beginning at 1000 and horns are to be sounded, interspersed by tire torching and placement of stone barricades across main streets.

The 17th of December: A day of completing the formation and construction of political committees and their specialized committees in the neighborhoods, villages, and camps to reinforce their role among the masses.

The 18th of December: A day of general strike in solidarity with the detainees and in protest against the repressive policies practiced by the authorities of the Nazi prisons and detention facilities.

The 21st and 22d of December: Days of enforcing the decision to boycott Israeli goods and replace them with local substitutes, as well as pursuing their promoters.

The 24th of December: Commercial businesses are to open until 1700 to mark glorious Christmas.

The 25th of December: A day of organzing mass rallies in and from churches to protest the continued Israeli occupation and the desecration of our sanctities. Together on the road of embodying the independent national Palestinian state!

Egypt

Ghali 'Seriously Ill,' Being Treated in Paris

TA0512134689 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] Cairo—It has been learned that Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has become seriously ill.

Informed sources said that, on the basis of doctors' advice, Dr Ghali was hastily transferred yesterday at noon by a presidential plane to Paris to be placed under intensive medical treatment.

'Abd-al-Majid Condemns Israeli 'Repressive' Moves

NC0312142489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1339 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Egypt has expressed deep concern over the continued escalation of repressive measures by the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied territories. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, reaffirmed that the Israeli actions violate international law and norms, and represent a flagrant provocation to the feelings of peoples all over the world.

In a statement today, 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized that the continued escalation of repressive methods to confront the Palestinian intifidah will not succeed in quelling it or in destroying the Palestinian people's desire to achieve their legitimate political national rights, which have been internationally recognized. He said these repressive measures will only strengthen the fraternal Palestinian people's determination to continue their legitimate struggle until they obtain their freedom and independence. He pointed out that the repressive Israeli measures in the occupied Arab territories run counter to a peaceful approach and the current efforts to activate the peace process in the area.

MENA has learned that Ambassador Muhammad al-'Azzazi, director of the Israel desk at the Foreign Ministry, today summoned the Israeli ambassador to Cairo, Shim'on Shamir, to convey Egypt's views on the serious situation in the occupied Arab territories and its rejection of the Israeli practices.

'Abd-al-Majid Conveys Palestinian Reply to U.S.

NC0412105589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—MENA has learned that Egypt yesterday conveyed to the U.S. Embassy here the Palestinian reply to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, informed U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner of the Palestinian response. The Palestinian reply comes in the wake of intensive Egyptian-Palestinian-U.S. consultations and contacts to give impetus to the peace process in the region and start a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

MENA also has learned that in its reply, the PLO underscored several basic principles—namely, its right to form the Palestinian delegation from both inside and outside the territories, as well as its right to raise any topic for discussion at the dialogue.

It should be recalled that the PLO earlier had declared its readiness to cooperate with Baker's plan in accordance with the Palestine National Council's resolution accepting a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, provided the Palestinian delegation is composed from both inside and outside the territories and that the dialogue is a preliminary step toward convening an international conference.

It is expected that the next step will be for Secretary Baker to call for a three-way meeting between him and the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers in Washington to discuss the initiation of the dialogue in Cairo. This dialogue will be the starting point toward activating the peace process with a view to reaching a framework for a peaceful settlement that could satisfy the demands for peace and security of all parties concerned, including Israel.

Mubarak Discusses U.S. Contacts With Cabinet

NC0212161589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak held an expanded meeting in the Presidential Palace in 'Abidin today. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; Dr Salah Hamid, the Central Bank governor; and the ministers of information, petroleum, economy, finance; and the minister of state for international cooperation.

President Mubarak held another expanded meeting that was attended by Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the prime minister, Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, presidential assistant; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Dr Salah Hamid, the Central Bank governor; and the ministers of defense, social insurance and social affairs, transport and communications, electricity, war production, information, petroleum and mineral resources, industry, economy, foreign trade, finance, justice, minister of state for international cooperation, and chairman of the stock market authority.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif made a statement after the meetings: [Begin recording] The first meeting lasted well over 2 hours. At the beginning of the meeting, President Mubarak heard a report on the contacts

between Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian views. President Mubarak stressed the importance of the time factor and of defining stands on the points proposed by the various parties before the U.S.-Soviet summit.

President Mubarak then discussed a report on the current talks with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and cooperation with financial and Arab establishments. He also heard a report on the available liquidity of foreign currencies necessary to meet requirements, to service loans, or meet the importation needs of basic commodities, foodstuffs, and industrial goods during the next few months. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Mubarak Meets Arab, Syrian Interior Ministers

NC0212174789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met the Arab interior ministers taking part in the eighth session of the Arab interior ministers council at 'Abidin palace today. Interior minister Zaki Badr attended the meeting.

The president then met with Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah.

Mubarak on Exports, Encouraging Private Sector

NC0412201189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has urged an increase in exports and a reduction in imports through encouraging Egyptian industries and banning the importation of goods when adequate substitutes are available from domestic production. Speaking to journalists following a 5-hour tour of factories in 10 Ramadan cities, Mubarak praised the factories he visited and said he had instructed the government to protect these industries.

The president said: We do not interfere in the management of the private sector in any way. We actually encourage it to compete with the public sector.

Concerning the public sector companies which show regular losses, the president said the government is trying to help these companies achieve profitability. The president said citizens should buy shares in these companies to help that process.

As for the companies which show regular profits, such as the iron and steel company, Kafr al-Dawwar, and al-Mahallah, Mubarak said the government seeks to give their management more freedom in operation.

The president said his visits to the factories, production sites, and private sector firms aim at encouraging the private sector to increase production and resolve its problems. The visits also aim to inform the public of private sector production through the media, Mubarak said.

Mubarak Addresses Message to Press Symposium

NC0412214189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today addressed a message to the opening session of the regional press symposium. In this message, which was read by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Mubarak said we should be prepared to confront the internationalization of the media through competent and competitive national media capable of preserving the Egyptian cultural identity and the principles conducive to political, social, and economic development.

In his message, President Mubarak said the symposium is of particular interest because it will examine ways to renovate the Egyptian press and emphasize the importance of the written word in enhancing development and democracy in the country.

The president said coordination among all local news media should be discussed during the symposium to formulate a cohesive vision in this respect. The president noted the government is eager to encourage efforts in the media field.

Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, chairman of the Higher Press Council, delivered a speech on the same occasion, saying the Egyptian press has taken an active part in the country's political history and development.

In its 3-day session, the symposium is to discuss several papers concerning ways of improving the local press.

Mubarak Receives Message From Somali President

NC0512124189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1219 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre.

Somali Interior Minister Ahmed Sulayman [name and title as received] disclosed this today after an audience with President Mubarak. He said the message expresses Somalia's wish that Egypt would mediate between the Somali Government and one of the Somali opposition groups.

Syria's Harbah Discusses Restoration of Ties

JN0512120289 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Dec 89 p 8

[By Ilham Sharshar, Muhammad Harbi, and Ibrahim al-Bahi]

[Excerpt] Meetings of the eighth session of the Arab Interior Ministers Council will begin in Cairo today.

President Husni Mubarak will deliver a speech that will be read on his behalf by Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi at the opening session. Twenty-two Arab countries, including Libya and Syria, are participating in the conference. They are represented by 22 interior ministers, except for Mauritania which is represented by its justice minister.

The Arab interior ministers began to arrive in Cairo yesterday. They expressed their satisfaction with holding the conference in Cairo, stressing that holding it here is an affirmation of Egypt's return to the Arab fold. It also means Egypt's triumphant return to the Arab League.

Following his arrival at Cairo airport yesterday, Syrian Interior Minister Dr Muhammad Harbah said Egypt and Syria are two countries working within one framework, sons of one trench, and are linked by eternal ties, the last of which was the great coordination through which Egypt scored a victory in 1973.

Regarding Egyptian-Syrian relations, the Syrian interior minister said the leaders of Egypt and Syria are considering restoring official relations between the two countries as soon as possible. Soon there will be a new step in this context, although the brotherly relations between us have never been severed.

Regarding the conference, which is being held in Cairo for the first time, he said it is customary to hold this annual conference at the Arab League headquarters, but this year we are delighted it is being hosted by Egypt. This, he added, will provide an opportunity to discuss several topics related to international terrorism and drug smuggling into the Arab countries. [passage omitted]

Ministers on Debt Rescheduling, Electricity

NC0312101889 Cairo MENA in English 0933 GMT 3 D3c 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, Dec. 3 (MENA)—Dr. Maurice Makramallah, state minister for international cooperation, said that Egypt has completed the rescheduling of all her debts with seventeen states that amount to five billion dollars.

This came at a meeting of the National Democratic Party Political Club held here last night and attended by a number of deputy premiers and ministers and members of the party general secretariat bureau.

Addressing the participants, Minister of Industry Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab said the World Bank did not ask for the dissolution of the public sector, adding that there is a recommendation for its liberalisation and its administration by an independent authority. He indicated that the number of companies that realised losses had dropped from 24 last year to 19 companies. The total losses which stood at 800 million pounds six years ago declined this year to 124 million pounds.

Engineer Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy announced at the meeting that an agreement on electricity linkage with Libya will be signed following the arrival of the Libyan minister of electricity on December 10.

He added that the supreme Libyan-Tunisian committee has signed lately an agreement linking electricity newtwork of the two countries, thus creating a unified Arab electricity network linking five countries namely Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

He said that by the end of 1993 a unified electricity network with Jordan will be completed by 1995. The netork will be extended to connect Egypt with Jordan, Iraq and Turkey. [passage omitted]

Crude Oil Price Raised Beginning 1 Dec

NC0212161889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—It has been decided to raise the price of Egyptian oil by 25 cents per barrel as of 1 December. Announcing the decision today, Hammad Ayyub, deputy chairman of the Egyptian Oil Corporation for foreign trade, said the price of crude Egyptian oil is now as follows: Bala'im, US $15.90 per barrel; Ra's al-Bihar and Gulf of Suez, US$16.75 per barrel; Ra's Badran, US $14.75 per barrel; Ra's Gharib, US$14.45 per barrel

Soviet Industrial Delegation Arrives

NC3011154389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—A high-level Soviet industrial delegation led by Soviet Deputy Minister of Industry Torshkin [name and titile as received] arrived in Cairo today for a 10-day visit to Egypt. The delegation is made up of heads of several Soviet industrial organizations.

Dr 'Atif Jad, board chairman of the Egyptian Metallurgic Company, disclosed the delegation will discuss the posibility of Soviet participation in financing and implementing projects to increase the output of ferro-silicon ingots from 40,000 to 60,000 tons annually. He said the delegation also will discuss the possibility of importing equipment to develop and improve production in the ferro-silicon company factories in Idfu. [passage omitted]

Israeli Agriculture Minister Arrives 3 Dec

NC0312223589 Cairo MENA in English 2230 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, Dec. 3 (MENA)—The Israeli deputy agriculture minister arrived here tonight. He is accompanied by an Israeli Agriculture Ministry delegation on his week-long visit to Egypt.

Sudan

Al-Bashir's Speech at Khartoum Rally 3 Dec

EA0312220389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Speech made by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council, NSRCC, chairman, during the demonstration by the masses of the national capital, 3 December, in Khartoum—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to all, the one and only, the unique one. Salutations and peace be upon the most honored, our lord Muhammad; God's salutations and peace be upon him. God has said: Permission has been given to the fighters to fight because they have been wronged. God is able to grant them victory. God speaks the truth.

Brother members of the people's committees, my sons the students, honorable citizens: God's peace, mercy, and blessing be upon you all. On behalf of your brothers in the NSRCC, the National Salvation Revolution government, on behalf of your brothers in the Armed Forces which, with God almighty's support, stand steadfastly and triumphantly, I salute you and salute these tumultuous crowds. I salute you and thank you for your stand and support and backing for your Armed Forces, which swore to spark off the revolution on your behalf on the 30th of June [applause, shouts, and ululations].

Honorable citizens, I salute your steadfastness, I salute your brothers, I salute your vast crowds in front of the General Command, I salute your brothers in the Armed Forces, your sons in the Armed Forces. They are the shield of this people, and their safety valve. These multitudes are an indication of the cohesion of the people and their Armed Forces.

These multitudes are like one man in his support of the Armed Forces standing with them in the same trench [applause]. This stand of yours is a support and backing for the Armed Forces.

I vow here before you to purge from our ranks the renegades, the hirelings—enemies of this people and enemies of this nation, enemies of the Armed Forces. The agents [word indistinct]. Permit me to express on your behalf our greetings to your Armed Forces deployed all over this homeland, defending honor and dignity. We salute our Armed Forces deployed in all the scattered places in Sudan in defense of honor and pride, in defense of unity, out to preserve our soil. Permit me to salute your Armed Forces, which succeeded with God's support and with your backing to cleanse Kurmuk of the traitors and the renegades. Your Armed Forces pledged to recover Kurmuk, and they now have fulfiiled their pledge. God willing, your forces will move forward to liberate all the territory. Our Armed Forces are determined to liberate every inch of our country sullied by the traitors and renegades. Once again, we salute our Armed Forces, which stand steadfastly and triumphantly with your support and backing, God willing.

Brothers, permit me on your behalf and on behalf of the Armed Forces to salute our martyrs, who sacrificed their lives to ransom this homeland. On behalf of you all, I tell them their blood was not shed in vain. We shall continue to achieve the goal for which they sacrificed their lives, God permitting. We vow to them we shall remain loyal to the objectives for which they died, namely, to liberate all Sudanese territory.

Let peace and security prevail. Your Armed Frces will strive to spread peace and security in all parts of this homeland.

Brothers, brothers who are standing before me now. I salute the united internal front which has rallied to the revolution. The unification of our internal front represented by the sons of our people [word indistinct]. The internal front has become united with our simple citizens, with the youth and decent students, with the workers and the intellectuals. It is united in all its sectors. This front has become united to build the homeland.

Our masses became united after all the causes of division and corruption had been eliminated. The masses have become united to rehabilitate the homeland. The march which has frightened the enemies of the people, the traitors and the renegades, has begun. The multitudes of our people, who stood up in the town of Atbara, the steadfast town, in Kassala, [word indistinct], in Darfur, al-Fashir, Nyala, al-Ubayyid, Juba, Malakal, Wau, Renk, al-Damazin—the masses of our people, who have become united to rehabilitate this homeland, support and back the revolution, in fulfillment of the pledge to build a new Sudan.

This unity has frightened the enemies of the people, the fifth column from among the roued remnants of the Communist Party and its partisans. They began their desperate attempts to infiltrate our ranks and destroy our unity, to stab your Armed Forces, in support of Garang's operations.

The routed elements of the Communists have begun to move to abort the current peace talks in Nairobi. The Communists have attempted to infiltrate you, to destroy your unity in support of the operation of the outlaws in the theater of operations, and in support of the hardliners at the peace talks. The Communists' attempts—a plot of betrayal and treachery aimed above all at stabbing your Armed Forces while they were waging an honorable battle to liberate Kurmuk—while our soldiers were moving forward with firm steps and infelxible determination, sacrificing one martyr after another to liberate and regain Kurmuk, the Communists and the fifth column were moving to stab this army in the back.

However, I want to promise you we shall not cooperate with anyone who attempts to spoil the march of this nation. We shall seize with determination and resoluteness anyone who attempts to spoil our march or stab our

Armed Forces in the back. Purging is a national duty. We shall, as we have promised you, purge our ranks of all the corrupt, the treacherous, the betrayers, the enemies of the people, agents of communism, the fall of which the whole world has announced, which is finished, never to return. [applause]

Communism has fallen. Communism has collapsed. We (?witness) today the collapse of communism, after the blows of the people of Poland. In your name I salute the Polish people and the Hungarian people, the people of Czechoslovakia, the people of Germany, who brought down the edifices of communism with no return, God willing. Communism has collapsed with the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

We shall purge our ranks of the traitors and the renegades. The revolution shall deter anyone who attempts to spoil the march of this people. We have assumed trust, and the people have rallied to us in support. We shall not disappoint this people, God willing. We shall not fall short with regard to the rights of this people, the rights of the toiling masses, the decent citizens, who have suffered for so long from the conspiracies of oppression and hostility, from the plots of the fifth column, which always had worked to break up the unity of the homeland.

Anyone who betrays this nation does not deserve the honor of living. We as a government and a revolution shall continue with the purges. We ask you, you decent people, to purge your ranks of outlaws and renegades. There will be no fifth column. The masses will have to purge their ranks and (?deter) anyone who attempts to delay or spoil the march of this people. The responsibility is really a collective one. You are partners in authority. You have authority, and are its enforcers, God willing.

Finally, I wish to confirm and vow to you that the National Salvation Revolution will proceed with your strength, with your Armed Forces. It will march with you from one victory to the next, in all arenas and battlefields, against the enemies of the people. With our unity and determination, standing together as one rank, people and Army, we shall advance to rout the enemies of the homeland and destroy their bases, and defeat their routed remnants. We shall purge our ranks of all renegades and infiltrators. We are fully determined and shall strike with resoluteness anyone who attempts to spoil this march. I promise you we stand by our pledges, God willing, against the traitors and the renegades. Down with enemies of the people. Forward with the march of Sudan. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all.

Al-Bashir's 27 Nov Martyrs' Day Speech Broadcast

EA2912191189 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Martyrs' Day Speech by National Salvation Revolution Command Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the compassionate the merciful. [passage omitted]

Dear citizens, brother comrades-in-arms. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all. We commemorate today the anniversary of the homeland's martyrs, who perfumed with their fragrant blood the soil of this land, and gave their lives as nothing on the road of right and sacrifice. It behooves us to stand in respect for them, and for their immortalization, for their loyalty and ability to give, and to sacrifice. It is due to their brilliant daring that we are proud of their sacrifice.

Dear citizens, the sons of the Armed Forces throughout our long history have made us proud because of their victories. They have hastened to the fields of sacrifice. They always have been the spearhead and vanguard of the struggle. [passage omitted]

The homeland which has [word indistinct] for the revolution of its people and stood against partisanship, divisiveness, and disunity, stands today loftily and with pride, aspiring towards its reconstruction, under the banners of unity, stability and security.

The revolution's efforts have been in the direction of staunching the blood of the sons of the one homeland. Sudan has harvested from the infighting only destruction, ruin and the grief of those who have lost their sons or husbands. For this reason we most sincerely hope the Nairobi talks on 1 December will be the final stage for uniting the voice of the Sudanese and the unification of their ideas, so Sudan can stand up from its fall to become a mighty giant in the heart of the brown continent.

Dear citizens, brother comrades-in-arms. The revolution took an interest in the Armed Forces right from the start, after they had been totally forgotten. The Armed Forces found nothing in the previous governments but neglect and lack of seriousness in qualifying and training them and raising their combat capabilities. Our interest in the Armed Forces stems from our deep faith they are the mainstay of the people and the protector of homes and womenfolk. We shall give them all our attention and care so they can march in step with the spirit of the age, and fulfil the aspirations of Sudan, namely, the preservation of its integrity and the safety of its territory.

It is due to this fact we are interested in developing the Armed Forces, both in training and equipment. Similarly, we shall give the individual soldier the same attention and care, out of consideration for the person who stands behind the machine. We must train him and provide him with all the conditions of decent life, so he can discharge his duty with efficiency and capability. [passage omitted]

Dear citizens, your soldiers are the soldiers of God. They always have offered pledges to give their lives as ransom in defense of the land. Their convoys will be scoring victories in the (?grasslands) and the forests, propelled by the hands of [word indistinct] and their unshakable faith. Their fingers will remain on the trigger against all those who are raising their hands against us, or attempting to detract from our honor and dignity. They always will stand by their pledges, standing resolutely for the unity of the homeland and the defense of its every inch.

From this place, I wish to call upon all those who deviated and carried arms against the will of their people, to harken to the voice of reason and logic and return to the fold of the homeland, to participate and contribute to its building and the elevation of its reputation. Our slogan is this: The revolution is for all. We do not wish to isolate anyone. We do not seek enmity, even against an individual, since there is no room for partisanship, or gathering into parties in our ranks.

The revolution was sparked by the will of the people. It will not be diverted from its progress by any sick whispering, or false rumor-mongering, or by anyone opposed to the aspirations and hopes of this nation. Dear citizens, the homeland will remain dignified with the sacrifice of its sons, honored with the loyalty of its Army, enveloped in the glory of the dutiful martyrs. Immortality always for the homeland. Pride and dignity for its sons. Long live the anniversary of the martyrs as a beacon for the conscience of the people.

On this great occasion, we salute respectfully all the fighters stationed in the different areas of operations, and in all parts of the homeland. They are the defenders of its honour with determination, patience and steadfastness. Glory to them for keeping aloft the flag of unity, security and peace. God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you all.

Al-Bashir Rules Out Military Solution in South

EA3012203789 Khartoum SUNA in French 0943 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 30 November (SUNA)—Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the National Salvation Revolution Command Council chairman, has declared the revolution opposes the establishment of a state in southern Sudan. He indicated this would be a grave development on the African continent, where different nationalities are proliferating.

In a press conference at the end of his visit to Qatar, Mr al-Bashir dismissed all possibility of a military solution to the southern problem. He reviewed all the government's efforts to achieve peace in the country. He also said relations with Qatar are deep-rooted. He paid tribute to Arab aid to Sudan. [passage omitted]

Government-SPLA Negotiations Continue in Kenya

For SUNA, AFP, and Omdurman Radio accounts of the peace talks held between delegates of the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Nairobi, Kenya, beginning 1 December 1989 and the preparations for these talks, see the Kenya section of the 30 November 1989 Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Rebel Radio States Peace Conditions

EA3012081689 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 29 Nov 89

[From "With the Battalions" program]

[Excerpts] Before this broadcast ends I would like to correct one statement repeatedly sung by the junta. This is the allegation by the junta over the international media that the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] had preconditions for talks in the past. This point has been made again and again by the junta despite the fact that the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]/SPLA leader, Comrade Dr John Garang de Mabior, emphatically denied it in his 14 August address to the nation over Radio SPLA. [passage omitted]

The junta is confused. What the junta regards as preconditions are the outcome of the talks. It is true in all the SPLM/SPLA talks with the previous governments and political parties and in the last talks with the junta in Addis Ababa on 19 to 20 August the movement has persistently been pointing out what it regards as obstacles to peace. These are: the state of emergency, the defense pacts concluded between Sudan and foreign countries, and the September shari'a. [passage omitted]

The removal of those obstacles is necessary for any meaningful peace talks to take place, but they are obstacles. They are obstacles placed on the [words indistinct] junta therefore, wants a meaningful peace to be achieved in the Sudan, they must remove these obstacles. They should stop killing their Army officers and men. They should release all the political detainees, reinstate all the judges, all the women dismissed from public service because of the obnoxious Islamic shari'a that forbid women from participating in national building, because these people are not obstacles to peace.

Failure to remove these obstacles to peace and failure to release all the political prisoners and failure to reinstate all the dismissed civil servants will lead the masses of the Sudan to continue the struggle in the SPLM/SPLA until a genuine peace is achieved. So, the struggle continues.

Tunisia

Further Reportage on Visit of Libya's Jallud

Minutes of 5th Session Signed

LD0212130289 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] The proceedings of the fifth session of the Higher Tunisian-Libyan Follow-Up Committee were crowned by the signature of the committee's minutes this afternoon at the government palace in Casbah. The minutes were signed by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud.

Talks With Prime Minister

LD0212155589 Tripoli JANA in English 1416 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Tunis, Al-Kanun [December] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—An enlarged meeting took place at the offices of the Council of Ministers in Tunisia yesterday between Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and the Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed al-Karoui.

Present at the meeting were the assistant secretary to the secretariat of the General People's Congress, the secretary of the General People's Committee, the secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Formation and Vocational Training, the Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, the Interior Minister Chedli Neffati, the Defense Minister Abdallah Kallel.

Jallud Comments on Talks, Unity

LD0212162789 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Tunis, Al-Kanun [December] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The minutes of the meetings of the 5th session of the Supreme Committee for follow up between Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia were signed at the Council of Ministers yesterday in Tunis. The minutes were signed by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmed Jallud and the Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui.

Attending the signing of the minutes were the assistant secretary to the Secretariat of the General People's Congress, the secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture, the secretary of the General People's committee for Training and Vocational formation, the Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, the Defence Minister Abdallah Kallel and members of the Supreme Committee for follow up.

After the signing of the minutes, Major Jallud made a speech asserting that the works of this session were characterized this time by meticulous follow up and entering into details and well determined issues.

He said "We would like, through this work, to give credibility to our work for we are moving through the movement of one Arab people."

He pointed out political speech and theoretical analyses have no impact on the masses for the latter would like to solve their problems and see the fruits of transformations through unity in this respect.

He added that is what we wish for the masses for and we are working for their unity in Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

He said "The [words indistinct] Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia must shoulder their direct responsibility in the process of unification in accordance with the instructions of the leader of the revolution and President Zine al Abidine Ben Ali". He pointed to the importance of unity in the realisation of the aspirations of the same Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia.

Major Jallud went on to say "Unity is an issue of culture, issue of interest and to [words indistinct] the masses to whom real interest belong in unity that there is a tangible unionist action. We must participate in a direct manner so as to accomplish its material and moral realisation so that the masses become sure that the matter is not just a matter of meetings of committees and statements but there is action and exerted effort, tangible realities and practical results which stand witness on the process of transformation taking place between the nationals of the same Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia." He asserted in this respect the need bring the masses into this daring historic and unionist transformation process and the realisation of gains, interchangeability of interests and link up of interests.

Major Jallud added "We do not want supra unity nor a unity of statements. We would like a genuine unity based on scientific foundations where the masses shoulder direct responsibility. We must give credibility to our work, give the example and realise what the mass [words indistinct] lost confidence in political speech and speech analysis and lost confidence in information for they would like to see realities through material and moral achievements."

He added "We must accomplish our decisions for this would give confidence to us and to the masses and make us more able to take further steps and think of further perspectives to link up interests, human, economic and social integration. For there is no future for us without unity."

Major Jallud made clear "The developments taking place in Europe at present make us work more forcefully for the realisation of total Arab unity from the ocean to the gulf."

Also the Tunisian prime minister made a speech asserting the importance of the work of the committee towards the realisation of the aspirations of the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia.

He lauded the results reached by the Supreme Committee for follow up in its 5th session. He said "We took decisions and it is very important that we must execute them for they are an advanced step along the path of total Arab unity."

The minutes include a number of decisions and accords which may realise and respond to the aspirations of the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia and serve their mutual interest."

Jallud Departs 1 Dec

LD0212130889 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud left Tunisia this evening for the Libyan Jamahiriyah, after having led his country's delegation to the proceedings of the Fifth Higher Tunisian-Libyan Follow-Up Committee. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Prime Minister Receives Visiting Iraqi Official

JN0212183989 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Manama, Dec 2 (GNA)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received here today Director of the Legal Department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry Dr Riyad Al-Qaysi, currently visiting Bahrain. The meeting was attended by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah.

Dr Al-Qaysi said he briefed the Bahraini premier on the outcome of talks held by UN envoy Jan Eliasson in Iraq and Iran on efforts made by the United Nations to resume peace talks between Iraq and Iran in the light of the UN Security Council Resolution 598. He also said that he extended to the Bahraini prime minister greetings of the Iraqi leadership.

Foreign Minister Receives Message

JN0212211489 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Manama, Dec 2 (GNA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah received a message from Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz regarding the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution No 598 in the light of the fresh move by the representative of the UN secretary general Jan Eliasson in Baghdad and Tehran.

The message was delivered by head of the Legal Department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry Dr Riyad al-Qaysi during his meeting with Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak here today.

Amir Sends Message on Palestinian People's Day

JN2911173889 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Manama, Nov 29 (GNA)—HH [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah reiterated Bahrain's all out support to the just struggle of the Palestinian people for their legitimate rights including their right to set up an independent state on their national soil.

In a message on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, HH the amir said Bahrain which has recognized the Palestinian state salutes on this occasion the struggle and the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the face of the inhuman practices of international Zionism.

HH the amir said "The Palestinian cause, since the UN General Assembly's resolution on partition of Palestine on 29th Nov 1947, attracted the highest degree of international attention and solidarity of peace loving nations."

HH the amir added that "today the United Nations and the whole world mark the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people at a time when this cause has become the most serious and complicated problem in contemporary history. It is a cause of a people whose human rights were usurped and has been subjected to all sorts of inhuman practices which were denounced by the international community."

"The world has become more convinced on the need for restoring legitimate rights to these people who are continuing their heroic uprising in the occupied lands inspite of brutal and oppressive circumstances," HH the amir added.

HH the amir said that the Palestinian people are using stones against Israel's advanced war machine to express their rejection of the occupation.

"The Palestinian people through national unity are stressing their determination to resist all attempts aimed at wiping out the Palestinian identity and their independent Arab personality." HH the amir noted.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid's National Day Address Reported

JN0212194589 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text]Abu Dhabi, Dec 2 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan reiterated today the UAE's determination to support the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands.

In an address marking the 18th anniversary of the UAE national day, Shaykh Zayid urged arab, friendly leaders and peoples and all peace-loving nations to step up their support for the palestinian people and to stop the savage pratices of the Zionist troops.

He also called on peace-loving nations and Lebanon's people and leaders to work for national unity of Lebanon and protect its political independence so that people will be able to treat their wounds and perform their national role on the Arab arena.

Shaykh Zayid also appealed to Iraq and Iran to implement U.N. security council ceasefire resolution 598 to achieve a permanent peace in the region.

Highlighting the UAE's foreign policy, Shaykh Zayid said it was based on firm principles foremost of which is supporting Arab causes, right, justice and peace and honouring its responsibilities towards brothers and friends.

He said December 2, 1971 was a step towards large unity experiments that covered our Gulf region and other areas.

He said he hoped the next GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] summit in Muscat would achieve more for the

Gulf people and wished the best for the other two arab groupings—the Maghreb Union and the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

Shaykh Zayid said he was determined to safeguard the federation and remove any obstacle in its way. "Consolidating the federation is the way to progress and advancement. It is our present and future and the fort that will guarantee us security and preserve our dignity and status in the world".

He urged more efforts in the next stage to further strengthen the UAE federation and achieve more progress and prosperity for the people.

Reiterating his interest in the youth, he said: "Truly, they are the pillar of our present and the men of future. We will depend on them to carry the trust and pursue progress."

He added: "The youth are the real asset of our nation and our supply for future. Building them on sound religious basis is a national necessity to preserve the progress and development of the homeland"

His speech was read by his representative Ahmad Khalifah al- Suwaydi.

"The farming, industrial, services, educational, health, social and other achievements all testify to the soundness of the UAE policies," he said.

PRC Economic Relations Minister Arrives 23 Nov

JN2311141089 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Zheng Tuobin, PRC minister of foreign economic relations and trade, arrived in the country this morning. He is heading a high-level Chinese delegation on an official visit to the state to take part in the meetings of the second session of the Emirate-Chinese joint committee, which was formed in pursuance of the economic agreement between the two countries.

The Chinese minister and his delegation were received at al-Shariqah International Airport by Economy and Commerce Minister Sayf al-Jarwan, a number of the ministry officials, and the Chinese ambassador to the state.

The Chinese minister expressed delight over his visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and to learn of the economic and cultural progress in the state under the wise leadership of his highness Shaykh Zayid ibn-Sultan al Nuhayyan, president of the state. In a statement to WAM, he stressed the importance of the joint committee and the effectiveness of its decisions and recommendations in promoting relations between the two countries in the economic, techncial, and commercial fields.

Meanwhile, Minister al-Jarwan paid tribute to the remarkable progress in ties and the constructive and fruitful cooperation between the UAE and China that the committee achieved during its first session in Beijing last year. He stressed that the economic relations between the two countries have witnessed noticeable growth, especially in trade exchange, which increased considerably.

Al-Shariqah Ruler Receives PRC Minister

JN2611120789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Al-Shariqah 26 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Dr Sultan Ibn-Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] Supreme Council and ruler of Al-Shariqah, this morning received Zheng Tuobin, PRC minister of foreign economic relations and trade who is visiting the UAE, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, they reviewed UAE-PRC economic and trade ties and ways to develop and enhance them.

The al-Shariqah ruler affirmed the importance of bolstering bilateral economic and trade cooperation, as this would help strengthen and entrench the ties of friendship existing between the two countries. He added that the bolstering of these ties would also serve the common interests of both the UAE and the PRC on various levels.

For his part, the PRC minister expressed his pleasure over the great development in bilateral ties. He also voiced his appreciation of the UAE officials' deep understanding of the nature of these strong and developing ties. Moreover, he paid tribute to the economic and trade activities under way in the UAE.

Iranian Delegation Arrives in al-Shariqah 29 Nov

JN2911135689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1240 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 29 Nov (WAKH)—Iranian president's adviser Mir Hoseyn Musavi arrived in al-Shariqah today on a visit to the United Arab Emirates. He was received at al-Shariqah International Airport by Shaykh Muhammad ibn-Salim al-Qasimi, head of the al-Shariqah Chamber of Commerce and Industry. During its stay in the country, the Iranian delegation will visit trade fairs in al-Shariqah and Dubayy and acquaint itself with the best ways to promote economic and trade exchange between the two countries.

Council of Ministers Approves Budget Draft Law

JN3011110489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Nov 89 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] In its weekly meeting yesterday under His Highness Maktum Ibn-Rashid Al Maktum, deputy prime minister and Dubai heir apparent, the Council of Ministers approved the general state budget draft law for the current fiscal year 1989, and the attached budget draft laws. The estimated expenditure of the general budget for this year has amounted to 14.650,242 billion dirhams; the revenues have been estimated at 12.844 billion dirhams; while the deficit has been estimated at

1.806,242 billion dirhams. The draft budget will be submitted to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Supreme Council to be approved and endorsed by his higness the UAE president. [passage omitted]

President Husayn Delivers Speech on Martyr's Day

JN0212175489 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1305 GMT 2 Dec 89

["Text" of speech by President Saddam Husayn at ceremony to present medals of honor to relatives of "martyrs" on Martyr's Day; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers, on this day every year, we on Martyr's Day recall sentiments of profound significance. All the sentiments we recall are of profound significance because they are related strongly to the martyrs, their actions, and their role in the dignified life led by the Iraqis and the Arab nation.

On this day we also recall another aspect concerning the enemy. This day was chosen for commemoration because it has a bearing upon the stand taken by the enemy toward the prisoners of war [POW's]. The reference here is to the crime perpetrated by the enemy; namely, the killing of unarmed POW's after they were captured. The perpetration of such a crime is a manifestation of one of the ingrained traits of the enemy. However, you always ask yourself a specific question. This question is the following: Could we have managed without martyrs? Would the Iraqis have been able to lead this noble, dignified, and stable life had it not been for the martyrs who gave their souls for the homeland? [passage omitted]

So, sisters and brothers, when we commemorate our martyrs, we have to remember that life, under the circumstances we have in mind—that is, when there is hostility, an aggression, and invaders who seek to conquer Iraq—cannot be perpetuated or tolerated without martyrdom and without giving up martyrs. Had it not been for the martyrs, we would not have attained this unparalleled glory. A comparison between the number of our martyrs and the number of the victims who might have fallen had we allowed the invaders to conquer our cities is out of place here. The issue is of a more sublime significance than that of shedding men's blood. The issue concerns the honor of the homeland, the honor of the citizen, as well as the present and future of both the homeland and the citizen. The morale of the sons of martyrs would not have been so high and elevated had their fathers been killed rather than martyred. How are we to envisage the morale of their sons had their fathers allowed the foreign troops to conquer their territory, permitting them to have a free hand in their country and to kill men? God be praised for all that happened. We are all quite sure the martyrs have their abode over the heights of glory. God willing, their abode is sublime paradise. [passage omitted]

The war was brought to an end. You and the world are well aware of the circumstances under which the war was brought to an end. The war would not have been terminated on the day it was brought to an end had it not been for the high level of preparedness characterizing the Iraqis. This level of preparedness would have allowed the Iraqis to vindicate peace. But there still are Iraqi POW's in Iran and Iranian POW's in Iraq. The reason behind this is the Iranian authorities seek to make the POW's a bargaining chip, in contravention of the agreements endorsed by world states, the agreements called international conventions. If the Iranians ignore their POW's in Iraq, thus bringing to nil the POW's human value in their policy, we cannot ignore our POW's and bring to nil their human and national value. The POW's will continue to retain this value in our policy and course. The Iranian officials must ask themselves, regardless of anything else, the following questions: Would it have been better for them to allow the war to end on 28 September 1980 when the first UN Security Council resolution was issued? At that time, Iraq responded favorably to this resolution, whereas Iran failed to make a positive response to this resolution. Or would it have been better for them to allow the war to end on 8 August 1988? I believe the answer is clear to you and to anyone endowed with a vision and the ability to think.

The Iranians must ask themselves the same questions as regards the POW's. Is it not better for them to allow the release of the POW's now? Was it not better for them to allow for the release of the POW's earlier? Or is it better for them to delay their release? What are the fruits they would reap from their continued detention of the Iraqi POW's and also from keeping the Iranian POW's held in Iraq? What is the human and national value they would reap from the continued pursuit of such a policy?

If they rationally and reasonably ponder the issue, they are bound to come up with the conclusion that they must release all of the Iraqi POW's in exchange for the release of the Iranian POW's. The UN envoy came and left. The UN envoy is making efforts designed to facilitate the task of attaining a final peace treaty between Iraq and Iran as stipulated in UN Security Council Resolution 598. When we found the negotiations were deadlocked, we made a proposal to break the deadlock. However, the Iranians so far have failed to show seriousness in dealing with this proposal. This proposal provides for the formation of specialized committees from both sides. It was envisaged in the proposal these committees would meet in Tehran and Baghdad alternately and that they would conduct a thorough discussion of the issues contained in UN Security Council Resolution 598 so they can reach a common understanding of how to implement the said resolution. We proposed a time limit be fixed for the work of these committees, so the Iranians cannot say the committee proposal would plunge us into a useless, time-consuming effort. That is why we fixed the 3-month time limit for these committees' deliberations. We also said each committee must at least hold four meetings to ensure that the 3 months are profitably utilized and to prevent the suspension of meetings during this time period. Regardless of the results that might be achieved by these committees, the outcome of the dialogue would be referred to the two sides. If such a thing materializes, numerous things would be clarified to the two sides

through the direct negotiations. This might facilitate meetings at higher levels in Tehran and Baghdad alternately or at a place to be agreed upon by the two sides.

At a certain point in time, meetings might be held at the leadership level. In such a case, matters might be decisively settled during direct negotiations. And this would enable the two countries to live peacefully and help achieve stability in the region. The Iranian peoples and the circumstances surrounding them made the Iranian Government that was in power before this one and the Iranian leadership that was at the helm before the current one unequivocally accept the 8 August 1988 agreement. Likewise, the Iranian peoples and the circumstances surrounding them inevitably will force the current leadership to hold meetings with Iraq, be they in Baghdad or Tehran or perhaps later at another venue to be agreed upon, in order to upgrade the level of our action and attain together a peace that would serve the interests of the Iraqi people, the Iranian people, and the entire region.

I used to tell you: I see the victory coming, I am feeling it with my own hands. I would like to tell you: I see peace coming. God willing, I will feel it with my own hands. To attain this peace, I am not depending on the good faith of the Iranian officials, despite the fact I hope to see them display good faith. Our interests would not be served if the Iranian officials fail to demonstrate good intentions to achieve peace. No, I am depending on a host of extensive and thorough analyses related to the world, to the region, and also to your capabilities, you glorious Iraqi men and women. I am referring to your growing capabilities, the capabilities designed to promote peace with God's help. These capabilities are designed to promote peace and not aggressiveness. Display further dignity and rise to further heights of elevation. May God grant His mercy to our righteous martyrs. Thank you, brothers.

Deputy Premier on Egyptian Labor, Remittances

JN0412211289 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 3 Dec 89 p 6

[By Safwat Muhammad]

[Text] Baghdad—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraq's first deputy prime minister, has told AL-AKHBAR efforts now are focused on deepening the relationship between the Egyptian and Iraqi peoples.

He noted Egypt and Iraq have the largest populations in the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] and that the relationship only can be consolidated through contacts such as joint projects and enterprises.

He added: Let the Egyptian citizen rest assured things in Iraq are normal. I am not saying this to encourage him to come to Iraq, but to reassure him about his relatives who are present in all Iraqi localities.

Ramadan denied Iraq was dissatisfied with the presence of Egyptians in Iraq. If this were so, he added, we would have denied them entry to begin with, and, of course, this is out of the question. If there have been some negative examples, there are positive cases too, said Ramadan. He emphasized Egyptian brothers are welcome to come to Iraq. Had these negative aspects appeared in another country, a hundred restrictions would have been instituted, the deputy prime minister added. Iraq is in the process of applying the principles of the ACC. He called on agencies to be alert and to approach the citizens carefully and without sensitivities.

On the reported attacks by some Iraqis against Egyptians employed in Iraq, Taha Yasin Ramadan said if there have been cases of Iraqis attacking Egyptians, it might well have been the other way around. This is nothing new and it ought not to be inferred that the two peoples hate each other.

Some reports, he added, have introduced a feeling of insecurity among Egyptian citizens, sometimes sensationalizing incidents, with some calling the Murabba'ah incidents a massacre. Strangely, as far back as 10 or 6 months ago, people came up with figures meant to scare people.

Ramadan said: We now are looking into the question of students who come during the summer holidays, stay for 4 months and then want to send their savings back in hard currency. That is a new problem.

On the need for regulating Egyptian labor and allowing entry into Iraq to holders of contracts only, Taha Yasin Ramadan said: We very much want Egyptians' entry to be regularized. It is easy to find a solution to the students' problems, since this category can decide against coming when it knows it will not be possible to change Iraqi currency into hard currency. But how will it be possible to keep labor from coming, or to regulate their entry?

On the delay in the receipt of remittances in Cairo, the Iraqi first deputy prime minister said the decision to cut back the levels still stands and will continue to be in force for another 3 years. The situation may improve somewhat in 2 months.

Dailies Urge Iran To Exchange POW's With Iraq

JN0512092589 Baghdad INA in English 1026 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 4, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad held Tehran rulers responsible for delaying the release of prisoners of war (POW's).

In its article published today, the paper clarified that the Iranian rulers did not deal with this emotive issue out of its human value and the evidences of realities confirmed that Iran did not deal with the POW's on the basis of that they were prisoners of war but it dealt with them as they were hostages detained in Iran.

The paper stressed that Iran would be forced to accept the release of POW's against the release of its POW's because peace is in the horizon by virtue of the several vicissitudes in the political arena as well as detente in the world.

Commenting [on] the POW's issue, the English language daily "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said that as part of their drive to hamper any prospective POW swap, the Iranians are invoking figures if any such swap would take place. They are demanding parity in the number of POW's to be released by both sides. If so, thousands would remain in captivity for simply having no equivalent number on the other side.

The third Geneva Convention does not give figures any heed and all POW's must be repatriated regardless of the number each of the sides keeps. Examples of this can be recalled from the Second World War an the 1967 and 1973 Middle East wars. Human beings are too valuable to be bartered.

It went on saying that if the Iranians are not worried about thousands of their prisoners who are still in Iraq, the Iraqis have all the reason to very much be concerned about their fellow countrymen. Iraqi POW's have been killed under the nose of the Red Cross representatives. The few POW's who have returned to Iraq told appalling stories of the extent of the dilemma Iraqi POW's are facing in Iranian camps.

If Iran has really embarked on what some observers call a new era of 'moderation', the POW's issue should be handled in a different way that would truly indicate the Iranians are inching towards civilised behaviour, it concluded.

Syria Said Planning 'Crime' Against Lebanese

JN0312113089 Baghdad INA in English 1050 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 3, INA—Al-Jumhuriyah daily of Baghdad said that the Syrian regime had made preparations to commit a new crime against the Lebanese people..

The daily demanded Arab and world public opinion to support the Lebanese people with a view to helping them surmount the current plight.

The paper recalled Hafiz al-Asad regime's bestial crimes perpetrated against the Arab people in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine, saying that Hafiz al-Asad, who destroyed Hamah and other Syrian cities, prepares to destroy Beirut and stamp out will of the Lebanese.

The paper described battle of the Lebanese people against the Syrian invasion and occupation as a battle of defending the existence and future of Lebanon.

Military Divisions To Disband During 'Phase'

JN0212200089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council, the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the Armed Forces General Command.

During the meeting, which went on for more than 4 hours, it was decided to disband five ground divisions of the Armed Forces during the coming phase.

'Aziz Attends Arab League, Meets Others in Tunis

Meets Kuwait's al-'Usaymi

JN2911213289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Tunis, 29 (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has met with Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs.

During the meeting, they discussed the topics listed on the agenda of the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council due to be held at the foreign ministers' level later tonight to discuss the latest developments pertaining to the Palestine question. They also discussed a host of current Arab issues and bilateral ties.

The meeting was attended by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Hamid 'Alwan al-Jabburi, the permanent Iraqi representative at the Arab League.

Meets Jordanian, YAR Counterparts

JN2911211089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Tunis, 29 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here tonight with Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, minister of labor and social affairs in the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR].

During the meeting, they discussed the topics listed on the agenda of the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council due to be conducted at the foreign ministers' level later tonight. They also discussed bilateral ties and issues of common interest.

Returns From Tunis 1 Dec

JN0112193889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad this evening after leading the Iraqi delegation to the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council, which ended yesterday in Tunis. The council discussed developments in the Palestine question.

Shamir Meets With Kelly, Repeats Stand on PLO

TA0512093089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] In the Malta talks, Bush and Gorbachev said they are interested in the continuation of the peace process. Mikhail Gorbachev said that the present time is propitious for advancing the political process. This was reported by John Kelly, the U.S. under secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

The under secretary said that President Bush had asked why the USSR is not resuming diplomatic relations with Israel. Gorbachev replied that relations will be resumed when the political process makes progress. In connection with the latter point, John Kelly added that Egypt has not yet furnished an answer to the Baker plan. He expects to receive an answer this afternoon in his talks in Cairo with President Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Majid.

The prime minister said that Israel, too, is waiting for Cairo's answer and that we will not negotiate with the PLO either directly or indirectly. Kelly replied that this point is obvious to the administration.

The possibility of a tripartite meeting of the Israeli, U.S., and Egyptian foreign ministers after Cairo's reply is received was discussed at the meeting.

Shamir Will Not Agree to Deportees as Delegates

TA0312174089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, this evening denied a report published in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM. The report said that the prime minister, during his talks in Washington, agreed to include two deportees in the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel.

Mr Pazner told our political correspondent Arye Golan that the inclusion of deportees or Palestinians from abroad was not raised at all in the prime minister's talks in Washington. Mr Pazner said the issue was not raised because the prime minister's U.S. interlocutors knew for certain that he would not have agreed to it. They are also familiar with Israel's position that the Palestinian delegation should include representatives for Arabs who live in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

U.S. Official Cited on PLO's Response to Plan

JN0512091889 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] A U.S. State Department official in Washington has said that the U.S. Administration is not concerned with the PLO's response to Baker's plan, but rather with Egypt's response to this plan.

In a statement to our correspondent in Washington last night, this official indicated that the U.S. Administration is discussing this issue with Egypt and not with the PLO. He added: The United States is awaiting Cairo's response to Baker's plan and hopes that Egypt will crystallize, in talks with the Palestinians, a response that will allow for progress in the peace process.

The U.S. official made these statements reacting to reports that the Egyptian foreign minister relayed to the U.S. Administration the PLO's response to Baker's plan.

Conflicting PLO Responses to Baker Plan Viewed

TA0312182889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] Has the PLO given an affirmative response to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five points, or was its answer negative? It depends on which minister you speak to, and whether the advisers and assistants belonging to his bureau support negotiations with the PLO or reject them.

This morning several newspapers reported that the PLO has responded positively to Baker's proposals and that the United States has agreed for the organization to have a role in composing the Palestinian delegation to the preparatory talks with Israel. According to these reports, Foreign Minister Arens has already complained to Baker about the U.S. move. Foreign Minister Arens told us this morning that he had not held any contacts with Baker recently, and that he knew nothing of a positive PLO response.

This evening the details were made public in a report from Kuwait which has also been corroborated by other sources. This version asserts that the only decision the PLO leadership managed to consolidate during its meeting on 1 December was a formulation stipulating that the PLO might agree to consider the Baker plan in its original form as outlined on 16 October, depending on two major conditions: that the PLO can nominate the members of the delegation for a dialogue with Israel, and that the agenda of the talks will remain open for other issues besides the elections in the territories.

Likud ministers, who oppose any contacts with the PLO, said this evening that Egypt, too, considered this position to be a negative response to the Baker plan, and had refused to deliver it to the United States. The PLO response was therefore transferred directly to U.S. Ambassador Pelletreau in Tunis, to the five permanent members of the Security Council, and to other countries in Europe.

The PLO has in fact rejected the Baker plan; it is willing to consider Baker's five points, but does not accept or agree to them. Moreover, the PLO's consideration of the plan is conditional on the acceptance of the two conditions mentioned earlier, and even now we are only talking about the Baker plan in its original, mid-October

version. This evening the Likud ministers claimed that the PLO has therefore ultimately rejected Baker's five points, adding that the Egyptians also understand this, while the United States does not regard the PLO answer to constitute any kind of response.

This position is in contrast to opinions expressed in other government bureaus in Jerusalem, where some sources felt that the PLO had accepted the Baker plan.

The conclusion of this is that to actually receive the PLO response to the Baker plan, one would be better advised to listen to what the organization itself has to say through its authorized spokesmen.

Weizman Interviewed on Peace Process, Intifadah

JN0112170789 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 November 89 p 4

[Interview with Israeli Minister of Science and Technology 'Ezer Weizman by Amirah Hasan in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] My interview with 'Ezer Weizman touched on all issues on the Israeli agenda.

Question: Do you see the peace process making any progress following Shamir's visit to Washington?

Answer: The peace process is practically crawling. I think time is not on our side, although we are on the right track, and that is talking to the Palestinians. But we are talking with them in the wrong way by traveling to Nabulus via Hong Kong although Nabulus is next door to us. We in the Labor Party think that the shortest route is the best one to take, especially given that President Mubarak is working with wisdom and patience. It would have been better if Egypt rather than the United States were leading the peace process. I, therefore, would like to repeat what I have said before, and that is that we have to talk to the PLO and 'Arafat. In this regard the United States and the USSR can be helpful. It will not be possible to work out a durable settlement without the participation of the USSR. Those who in the past had their fears of the Soviets must now reassess their position, since the Soviets have changed and we cannot approach them the way we did 10 years ago.

We have wasted much time since the peace treaty with Egypt was signed. Even the election notion is not enough. I have voted against the elections plan since it is not for me to choose the representatives of the Palestinian people on their behalf, inasmuch as 80 percent of the Palestinians support 'Arafat. Even Europe and other countries in the East and West receive 'Arafat. Talking with 'Arafat is now possible. The longer the elections are deferred the stronger Palestinian extremists will grow—inside and outside the occupied territory—at the expense of 'Arafat. If Israel is going to accept 'Arafat after the elections, it may be better to accept him without elections.

At issue now is the composition of a Palestinian delegation. The election idea was mooted in May 1989, and it has been 6 months since then and the elections have yet to take place. There is no telling how much longer differences will continue over the makeup of the Palestinian delegation. Will they come from the PLO or from outside the PLO? This is hypocrisy because all of them are PLO.

Question: As a Labor party member, what is your role in the peace process?

Answer: The Labor Party supports trading territory for peace and a settlement based on UN Security Council Resolution No. 242. Hence, I am staying in the Labor Party. But after 5 years of partnership with the Likud in the national unity government we have not succeeded in propelling the peace process forward. And 10 years since the peace treaty with Egypt, we are still talking about the modalities of elections in the occupied land. I hope the Labor Party will pursue the matter more vigorously, especially given that Israel's image internationally has grown somewhat tarnished after 700 Palestinians have been killed in the intifadah and we watch the pictures daily on television screens.

However, it is difficult for the Likud today to relinquish the West Bank and Gaza. The fact is that Begin resigned from the government and abandoned political life because of Camp David and the evacuation from the Sinai, not because of the Lebanon war. Therefore, it is difficult for the Likud even to think of autonomy or to abandon authority over the territories. Therefore, I believe that Shamir is playing for time.

Question: Until when?

Answer: For a limited and short time.

Question: Therefore, what is the coming stage?

Answer: The coming stage is a stage of discussion and argument on the formation of the Palestinian delegation. And here, I do not give the government a long time to continue with this. I hope that the Labor Party will take the issue with more seriousness despite the dangers.

Question: Do you believe that the Labor Party is ready for adventures and risks?

Answer: Practically speaking, this is the major problem. However, because the Labor Party agrees on the principle of exchanging land for peace it will find—more than the Likud—common ground for understanding with the Palestinians.

Question: You admitted that you deported Muhammad Milhim when you were the defense minister. If you were the defense minister today, how would you deal with the intifadah?

Answer: I would deal with it in a different way. Although I deported Muhammad Milhim, I say to you that I am ready to talk with him, particularly since everybody knows that force, expulsion, demolitions, and arrests are no longer useful. I admit that at one time I was an

advocate of the idea of the land of the Greater Israel, but I changed my mind in the wake of the visit to Jerusalem by Al-Sadat.

Question: Do you believe that the United States will pressure Shamir to activate the peace process?

Answer: Yes, I believe so. The United States will embark on serious pressure when it reaches an agreement with the Soviets. But America today has many internal problems and there are 6 million active Jewish politicians in America.

Question: Has the intifadah affected the Israeli leadership, and how has it done so?

Answer: Of course the intifadah has affected it, particularly since the intifadah is spontaneous and unarmed. It affected the Israeli economy, Israel's image in the world, and the Israeli leadership, and now this leadership understands that a solution must be reached. Although the elections proposed by Shamir and Rabin are no good, nevertheless they are the result of the intifadah. The intifadah affected those who support the policies of expulsion, demolition, arrests, and bombing houses. Ideas emerged even inside the Likud supporting the search for a solution, although the solution they are presenting is not appropriate, as we said earlier.

Question: What is the alliance between Weizman and Rabin?

Answer: There is no alliance between us now. Nevertheless, after Rabin's visit to Cairo I have found out that he has a new doctrine, and I hope I will not be disappointed.

Arens Discusses Bush-Gorbachev Meeting, Mideast

TA0212120289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1105 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by David Essing, in the studio on the weekly "Spotlight Program"—recorded]

[Text] [Essing] The Middle East will be one of the trouble spots that Gorbachev and Bush will be discussing at the summit. What can they contribute to the peace process at this juncture? Here is Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

[Arens] I do not know that it can. It is no doubt a very important meeting, and I think that the results the whole world is looking for have to do with relaxation of tensions, with the democratization of Eastern Europe—hopefully with the democratization of the Soviet Union as well. I think that the problems accompanying this process are probably uppermost in the mind of Mr Gorbachev, and my guess is that this will be the major subject of discussion.

I do not see that the Soviet Union has the time to really do anything of significance in the Middle East peace process, and I do not see that they can do anything of significance in the Middle East peace process. When I met Mr Shevardnadze in Cairo, and we talked about the possible Soviet role I said: Well, you have these excellent relationships with the Syrians; why don't you bring the Syrians to the peace table? And he said that it was an interesting idea, but I did not get the impression that he was taking that idea very seriously. I would say that in that direction there is something that the Soviets could do with those countries—and they are the most hostile and extreme countries in the Middle East, like Syria and Libya. They have influence, and if they wanted to use their influence, maybe they could use it to moderate those countries.

[Essing] Washington and Moscow have made clear that they are going to try and reduce regional tensions and crises in different parts of the world. Is there not the possibility, looking down the road, that there might be some kind of trade-offs between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, for example, El Salvador and the Middle East—this kind of thing?

[Arens] It is possible. I would say that I do not really think of it in terms of trade-offs because I think the problems in El Salvador and in the Middle East—from the U.S. perspective at least—are really pretty much the same. These are trouble spots where the infusion of Soviet arms has made things more difficult and not easier. So my guess is that the United States is interested in having a cessation of the supplies of Soviet arms to countries in Central America, and the United States and certainly we are interested in a cessation of the supply of Soviet weaponry to Arab countries in the Middle East.

[Essing] Looking at the American-Israeli relationship, you said earlier this week that you do not believe that the changes sweeping Eastern Europe will change this relationship between the United States and Israel. But if indeed the Cold War is dead, will not Israel's use to the United States as a strategic asset be affected by this?

[Arens] Well, you know that the U.S.-Israeli relationship is not based solely on strategic considerations. As a matter of fact it is only in more recent years—and in a period when the Cold War was intense—that attention was focused on that dimension of the U.S-Israeli relationship. But the relationship is one between two democracies: Two countries that have common values and common ideals, as well as many things in common. Therefore this relationship will continue under all circumstances. As long as there is any kind of tension in the world, as far as strategic interests are concerned Israel and the United States will always find themselves on the same side of the fence, I believe. I suppose even that eventuality or that possibility is something that will always be taken into consideration. This is part of the relationship, but it is only part of the relationship.

[Essing] The Bush-Gorbachev summit comes at a time of rising tension in Lebanon. Israel has also made clear this week that it will not act unless its vital security interests

are endangered. Mr Arens, just what are those security interests? What interest does Israel have in Lebanon when it comes to security?

[Arens] The interest is a very clear one. It is the safety and security of Israel's northern border, and the safety of the population that lives in Israel's northern border. Lebanon almost through the entire history of Israel's existence has been a source of problems, a source of terrorist activity from Lebanese soil against Israel. We have been engaged over most of these years in being alert and sometimes taking military action, in being on guard to make sure that we do not have such incidents, or, if there are that, we bring them down to a minimum. Now there has been over the years a clear correlation between a Syrian presence and Syrian influence in Lebanon and the frequency of these incidents, and so we are not interested in an increase in Syrian presence and Syrian influence in Lebanon.

[Essing] There are those who say that to all intents and purposes Lebanon has now become a Syrian protectorate. Does Israel not have an interest, say, in trying to support General 'Awn, who comes out against this Syrian domination and hegemony over Lebanon?

[Arens] I do not know that there has been a radical change in terms of the Syrian presence and Syrian influence, because there has been Syrian presence and Syrian influence over the past years to a very major extent. It is only in the security zone, I would say, that there is a total absence of Syrian influence because of the presence of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and the assistance the SLA gets from Israel. So I do not think that we need at this stage of the game to go any further and to say anything more. An expansion of Syrian influence and Syrian presence in Lebanon is certainly not in the best interests of Israel.

[Essing] There have also been reports of Syrian overflights over Beirut which have not occurred before. Is this also an Israeli red line?

[Arens] We have had some Syrian overflights in different parts of Lebanon. We have an occasional presence of Israeli Air Force aircraft in the skies of Lebanon in protection of Israel's security interests, and I think as regards the rules of the game and of the skies over Lebanon are concerned the Syrians have a very good idea as to just what Israel's position is.

[Essing] Do you think then that the danger of a confrontation in the air has been avoided or will be avoided in the future?

[Arens] Well, we have not had a confrontation so far, and I hope we will not have one in the future. It depends on the Syrians of course.

[Essing] Can you confirm the reports that Israel has acted through the United States, and through the United States via the Soviet Union, to try and restrain any Syrian offensive against General 'Awn?

[Arens] I think that the Syrians know just where we stand and they have got messages through various sources. I do not think we need to go into any further detail.

[Essing] Could we turn to the UN? Mr Foreign Minister, the UN is going to perhaps be voting on a proposal to upgrade the PLO status. If the UN did go through with this and raise the grading of the PLO to that of a Palestinian state, how would Israel view this?

[Arens] I think that if that happened—and the way it looks right now it's not likely to happen—but if it were to happen, of course, this would be another act taken by the UN which would not do the UN any honor and would indicate that the UN on occasion takes actions and passes resolutions that stand in total contrast to the principles of the UN and to the principles that the civilized world believes in. We are talking here—as every Israeli know and as the people in the UN know as well—about a terrorist organization, or more correctly maybe a roof organization for 10 or 12 different terrorist organizations that has committed some of the worst atrocities the world has seen since World War II. That is certainly not a state by any definition, although they call themselves a state and Mr 'Arafat goes around calling himself the president of the state of Palestine. If the UN were to pass a resolution recognizing this non-state as a state it would simply declare itself acting in a most ridiculous manner. Well, it does not look like it is going to happen and I think that many countries that in the past have paid some degree of homage to the PLO, and have given a degree of recognition to the PLO, and have allowed the PLO to establish in some cases offices and in other cases even embassies, in quotation marks—it looks like nevertheless many of these very countries today think that that is just going too far and that this terrorist organization should not be recognized as a state within the halls of the UN.

Katz-'Oz Outlines Accords Reached With USSR

TA0312155989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Upon his return from a visit to the Soviet Union, Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz said that Israel's representatives have signed an agreement to provide fresh agricultural produce to the Moscow area. Soviet planes will arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport and Soviet cargo ships will arrive at Ashdod port to load the produce. The minister made clear that this agreement is for a 6-month supply to the Moscow area of some 90,000 tons of fresh Israeli agricultural produce worth some $30 million. According to Minister Katz-'Oz, this is just an initial agreement, which will probably be followed by a considerably expanded export of Israeli agricultural produce to the USSR. This will bring about an increase in the amount of farmed land in Israel.

Speaking at a news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport, Minister Katz-'Oz added that the agreements on the export of fruits and vegetables from Israel to Moscow also include the planning of irrigation systems, the

development of cotton fields, and the construction of dairy and chicken farms with new Israeli technology. According to the agreements, the Soviets will pay for transportation.

A joint company has been established to implement the agreements. Called Agromir, it includes Agrexco [Agriculture Produce Exporting Company], the Agriculture Ministry, and other companies on the Israeli side, as well as agriculture marketing personnel from Moscow.

An ITIM correspondent reports that the agriculture minister also agreed with his USSR hosts on reciprocal visits by youth delegations. As early as next month some 50 children from Chernobyl will arrive in Israel to stay in kibbutzim for 14 days. They will also undergo medical checkups here. During the coming year some 100 Soviet youths will arrive in Israel. They will stay at Sede Boqer College. A group of Israeli youths will leave for the USSR in June and will stay in a large kolkhoz near Moscow. All in all, the exchange agreement will involve some 1,000 youths.

Netanyahu Heads to Hungary on 'Political' Visit

TA0412081889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu left this morning on a 2-day visit to Hungary at the invitation of the Hungarian deputy foreign minister, who had visited Israel earlier. Our political correspondent notes that Netanyahu will confer with the Hungarian deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, the foreign minister, and the deputy foreign minister. He told our correspondent his would be the first political visit to Hungary following the resumption of bilateral relations. Netanyahu will brief Hungarian leaders on the political process in the Middle East and will hear from them about recent developments in East Europe.

Arens, Levi Preparing for 'Succession Duel'

TA0312113189 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Dec 89 p 2

[Commentary by Hanan Crystal: "The Constraints Ministers Change Tactics"]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's return in one piece from the meeting with President George Bush, and the political stagnation—blamed mainly on Egypt and its customer, the PLO—have forced the constraints ministers to change their strategy.

The Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i faction, which has become an institution, tried to take advantage of the initiative for elections in the territories to carry out a coup against their party leadership. Having estimated, however, that Shamir currently enjoys a stable majority over the political issue, they made a tactical decision to lower their ultimate demand for an immediate political resolution in the Likud Central Committee and to move their struggle to an organizational sphere: They now demand that the Likud branches be unified, the process of the Liberal faction's representation in the Central Committee be completed, a party census be held, and a new central committee be elected.

However, while the political confrontation had been conducted mainly between the prime minister and Minister Ari'el Sharon, the power struggle over organizational changes is presumably destined to revolve around Ministers Moshe Arens and David Levi, who are making preparations for a fatal succession duel. The mutual exchange of accusations and insults which took place this weekend between Arens, chairman of the Likud Secretariat and the majority camp leader, and Levi, acting faction chairman, who is more at home on the internal rather than international political playground, were the opening blasts heralding the heavy shelling expected between the two soon. The public is advised not to miss the show.

'Rebel' Labor MK's Seek Elections Led by Rabin

TA0312112889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Dec 89 p 2

['Analysis' by Dan Petreanu: "Labor, Convinced Peace Plan Is Dead, Awaits Chance To Bolt"]

[Text] A group of rebel Labour MKs, [Knesset members] led by 'Uzi Bar'am and Hayim Ramon, plan to pressure party leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin to withdraw from the government at the party bureau's planned diplomatic debate in two weeks.

The group, called "Force 17," last week lost three relatively "hawkish" members—Ra'anan Kohen, Mikha'el Bar-Zohar and 'Imanu'el Sussman—but Bar'am insisted that its activities would intensify and that other MKs, such as Rabin associates Ora Namir and Avraham Shohat, would join its ranks.

Party Secretary Mikha Harish stated last week that he opposes the group's initiative because he believes "Labour has succeeded so far in dictating foreign policy." But his is undoubtedly the minority view. More than ever before, Labour (and Likud) ministers express scepticism about the chances of the U.S. initiative—in its present form as a "five-point plan with assumed assurances"—being implemented by this government.

Labour's ministers estimate that on the crucial issues of who will appoint the Palestinian delegation, whether East Jerusalem Arabs will vote in the proposed elections, and the agenda of the talks, Prime Minister Shamir cannot politically afford to violate the Likud's constraints—which, despite being authored by his opponents in the Likud, were presented by Shamir as his own to his Central Committee in July.

The Labour Party therefore feels that it is justified in bolting the government—should it want to do so. The question is one of expediency: When to make the move,

who will lead the party after the move and whether he will lead it to a narrow government, elections or the opposition.

Most of those who favour breaking up the unity government believe that it should be done at any of the expected crisis points which will come when it is clear that the initiative is stuck.

Few in the party believe that Peres will ultimately be able to form his far-fetched coalition supported by the left, the ultra-Orthodox, and the non-Zionist parties. Furthermore, the party's success in the Histadrut elections has revitalized its ranks and whetted their appetite for electoral revenge against the Likud.

The apparent aim of the forces seeking to break up the government is to gain the support of Peres and the tacit consent of Rabin—who is needed to lend credence to the move by confirming—in his "non-partisan" way—that the peace initiative is moribund.

Peres would then be granted a free hand to attempt to form his government. If he fails, as is expected, the party would temporarily end up in the opposition and then try to force elections—for which Rabin would be recruited to lead the party. More than ever, the party is determined to choose its candidate for prime minister based on popularity—another result of the Histadrut poll success, in which Yisra'el Qeysar appeal is seen to have been critical.

To head this off, Peres has launched a vigorous internal campaign to resuscitate his position in the Central Committee. For now, this serves the withdrawal forces' interests, as the strengthening of Peres—who is inclined to favour withdrawal—increases the chances that they will be able to overcome strong elements in the party's Central Committee such as the kibbutzim, Histadrut functionaries and the party hawks, who will likely oppose any move that threatens their proximity to power.

'Hawkish' Labor Party MK's Organize New Bloc

TA0512084289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Telephone interview with Knesset Member Mikha Goldman by Yitzhaq Ro'e—live]

[Excerpts] [Ro'e] A group of hawkish Labor Party Knesset members [MK's] last night announced the establishment of a new organizational bloc named MAPAI. This is not the historical MAPAI [the precursor of the Labor Party], but something more contemporary and updated. MAPAI is an acronym for Eretz Yisra'el Political Center [Merkaz Politi Eretz Yisra'el]. The group includes MK's Mikha Goldman, Shim'on Shetrit, Ra'anan Kohen, Mikha'el Bar-Zohar, and 'Imanu'el Sussman. The new MAPAI is expected to counterbalance activity by the Labor Party doves. Good morning, MK Mikha Goldman.

[Goldman] Good morning. [passage omitted]

[Ro'e] Your group uses the acronym MAPAI, the Eretz Yisra'el Political Center. I understand the emphasis is on Eretz Yisra'el. Are you after a greater Eretz Yisra'el?

[Goldman] No. We support Labor Party platform, which includes territorial compromise based on the Alon plan. We would not return to the 1967 borders, but neither would we want to lose the Jewish majority. We have no use for another 1.5 million Palestinians, and we are in favor of living in peace with the 750,000 Israeli Arabs. If we want to ensure a Jewish Israel, we need a Jewish majority in this state, as well as safe frontiers, with the Jordan River as the state's eastern border. [passage omitted]

[Ro'e] You have mentioned returning to power. I can guess that another common denominator uniting the group founders is the desire to place Yitzhaq Rabin at the party's stern.

[Goldman] We decided a priori that we would not deal with personal issues and would limit ourselves to the ideological-political aspects of the Labor's activities in the Knesset. [passage omitted]

HADASH Accepts Resignation of 3 MK's

TA0512055089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] In Haifa, the HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] communist council approved a decision by the party secretariat to accept the resignation of Knesset Members [MK's] Me'ir Wilner, Tawfiq Tubi, and Tawfiq Zayyad from parliament. Wilner will resign within the next month; the others will leave the Knesset according to a timetable determined by the HADASH secretariat. [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 5 December in a report on page 12 by David Rudge adds that the MK's "are to step aside for younger members Hashim Mahamid, former mayor of Umm al-Fahm, Druse author Muhammad Nahfa and Tamar Gorzinski."]

The HADASH council again called on MK Charlie Biton to resign, but Biton—the only noncommunist Knesset representative of HADASH—is expected to dismiss the appeal and form a one-man faction in the Knesset.

Foreign Currency Reserves Rise in November

TA0412110489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Dec 89 p 5

[Report by economics correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Excerpt] Israel's foreign currency reserves rose last month by $449 million to $4.78 billion, the Bank of Israel reported yesterday.

The bank said the large rise in the reserves reflected the transfer early in November of $1.13b. of American

civilian foreign aid. The Treasury had already announced last week that it had used $530m. of that to repay foreign debts.

But sources at the central bank said yesterday that part of the difference between the sum received as foreign aid and the amount the reserves rose was accounted for by speculative purchases of foreign currency. [passage omitted]

30 Million Shekels for Settlements Released

TA0512092589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Dec 89 p 1

[Report by economics correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Excerpt] Threatening to block urgent amendments to the Income Tax Ordinance, the Likud faction at the Knesset Finance Committee this week forced the Finance Ministry to transfer NIS [new Israeli shekels] 30 million promised in the coalition agreement for Jewish settlement activity in the West Bank.

This happened on Sunday, but neither the committee, nor the Likud faction nor the Treasury publicly announced it.

The Treasury agreed that NIS 12m. would be used to build roads, NIS 8m. would go to the Housing Ministry's rural-construction division, and the rest would go towards preliminary work.

Finance Minister Shim'on Peres had blocked the transfer of the money. [passage omitted]

PLO Considering 'Painful' Attacks Inside Israel

TA0112112989 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Dec 89 p 1

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Text] The PLO leadership is considering stepping up terrorist attacks against Israel. This move is the result of the political stagnation and the shift in world interest from the PLO and the intifadah to East Europe.

Knowledgeable Palestinian sources have stated that the political freeze has caused great confusion among PLO leaders. Yasir 'Arafat is under heavy pressure from his organization's operational branch to move on to a series of painful terrorist attacks inside Israel in an effort to regain the focus of international interest.

Settlers' Reserve Units Deployed in West Bank

TA0412055089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Two Army reserve units made up of soldiers from the territories have been deployed in Samaria for duty. Up until now, the army has not deployed settlers for reserve duty in the area. One unit is serving in the Jericho area and the second near the village of Ma'radah along the trans-Samarian highway, as well as near Ari'el. Military officials told a Voice of Israel reporter that the decision to deploy the units was strictly on operational grounds.

IDF To Set Up Lockup Facility in Gush 'Ezyon

TA0512100589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Dec 89 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Excerpt] As part of its preparations for a continuation of the intifadah in the territories, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] plans to set up a central lockup facility in the Gush 'Ezyon area this coming year. The facility is designed to accommodate some 4,000 inmates, most of them administrative detainees and detainees awaiting trial.

At the same time, the IDF plans to close down small West Bank lockup facilities such as the Tulkarm jail (150 inmates), 'Ofer base (220 inmates), and the al-Zahiriyah jail (520 inmates). The other lockup facilities that will continue to operate in the West Bank are al-Fari'ah prison (620 inmates) and the lockup facility in 'Anatot (400 inmates).

On 30 November 1989, the total number of intifadah detainees held in various detention facilities stood at 9,142. Of these, 3,399 had been tried; 1,385 were awaiting trial; 2,796 were being held in custody until the end of legal proceedings; and 1,562 were being held in custody without trial (administrative detainees). In the last few months the IDF has improved living and safety conditions in the two main lockup facilities in Qezi'ot and Megiddo. Improvements were introduced in the Qezi'ot facility following the recommendations of the Supreme Court judges who visited the site 6 months ago and as part of the work to expand this detention camp to accommodate another 2,000 detainees over its current capacity of 5,000 inmates. [passage omitted]

Investigation of Nusaybah, Abu-'Ayyash Ended

TA0512052889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] The State Attorney's Office says two prominent Palestinians, identified by a Knesset member [MK] and court documents as uprising leaders, were not put on trial for secret security reasons. The representative of the State Attorney's Office told the High Court that, in her words, professional considerations led security officials to call off any investigation of Sari Nusaybah and Radwan Abu-'Ayyash. The disclosure was made in response to a High Court petition by MK Tzahi Hanegbi, who is demanding that the two Palestinians be prosecuted as members of the uprising leadership. Both Nusaybah and Abu-'Ayyash denied the accusation.

Sinyurah Says Intifadah 'Only Game in Town'

TA3011191089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] East Jerusalem merchants began a 3-day strike today to protest against the death of two brothers, Nidal and Samir al-Hamuri, killed by army fire yesterday while throwing stones at Israeli vehicles near al-Ram village. The army says soldiers opened fire on a group of masked stone-throwers after they refused orders to halt.

Jerusalem police briefly detained five Kakh activists at the Hebrew University Mt Scopus Campus this afternoon. They were protesting against the editor of the East Jerusalem daily AL-FAJR, Hanna Sinyurah, who was speaking at the campus at the invitation of the Truman Institute. Sinyurah said that, despite the high cost of the uprising felt by every Palestinian family, the intifadah will continue.

[Begin Sinyurah recording] Some people talk about the Shamir plan as the only game in town. I want to stress here that the only game in town is the intifadah. It will continue as long as there is occupation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Olmert Provides Israeli Arab 'Terror' Data

TA0412174689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Minister Ehud Olmert said today that 20 Israeli Arab terror squads have been uncovered since the beginning of 1989, as opposed to 15 such groups in the year before, and only 2 in 1987. According to Olmert, the data indicate that Israeli Arabs have adopted the operational methods of residents of the territories. Minister Olmert further said that 184 terror acts were committed within the Green Line in 1989. Most of these acts were arson, while the rest comprised property damage, firebombs, and the placing of bombs. There were also incidents of stone throwing, PLO flags being hoisted, and nationalist graffiti being drawn.

Minister Olmert also noted that there still are gaps between the Jewish and the Arab sectors in terms of budget, education, and land arrangements. He believes that most of the Arabs are law-abiding citizens, and that the terror acts were committed by a small minority.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Minister Olmert replied to a motion to the Knesset agenda submitted by Alignment Knesset Member 'Uzi Bar'am. Bar'am said that more than half of the citizens below the poverty line are Arabs, and that two-thirds of the children below the poverty line are Arab children.

Data on Uprising 'Terrorist Squads' Released

TA0112081689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] The head of the Shin Bet has reported that during the 2 years of the intifadah, more than 500 terrorist squads have been uncovered. According to him, over 170 Fatah squads have been exposed since 'Arafat declared the cessation of terror. The head of the Shin Bet made the remarks in a comprehensive discussion on the territories held with the participation of the defense minister, the chief of staff, the regional command commanders, and the coordinator of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activities in the territories.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the operational and intelligence aspects of the IDF deployment in the territories and the adaptation of operational methods to the ever-changing circumstances were discussed.

It was further noted at the discussion that it is the masked men and not the mass demonstrations that make up the hard core of the intifadah. Also noted was the impression that the intifadah will go on.

[In a related report, Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 1 December adds that "Defense Minister Rabin summed up the discussion, reiterating that the goal is to reduce the level of violence and maintain a functioning administration to provide the residents of the territories with as normal a life as possible."]

Data on Palestinian Fatalities Released

TA0312091589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Dec 89 p 2

[Report by Lili Galili]

[Text] Since the start of the intifadah, 586 Palestinian inhabitants of the territories have been killed by security forces. Twenty-five Palestinians were apparently killed by Israeli civilians. Among the fatalities were 131 children, 37 of them under the age of 12, and 94 between the ages of 13 and 16.

Ten soldiers and 11 Israeli civilians, including three infants, have been killed in the territories since the intifadah began.

This data was provided in the latest report prepared by Betzelem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Territories.

In November, 11 inhabitants were killed by security forces while another two died of wounds sustained previously, according to Betzelem. Two soldiers were killed by Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip. The report points out that for the first time since the intifadah began no Gazans have been killed by the security forces for an entire month.

Arab League's Call for Conference Criticized

JN0112183189 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 1 Dec 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] The Arab League has urged the international community to pursue its efforts to convene the international Middle East peace conference. This week's call by the Arab League is indeed surprising. One would think the exponents of the idea are following world events from an ivory tower on Mars. The strangeness of the call lies in the fact that the international conference notion was once popular with the Arabs, but the whole exercise has proved to be a waste of time and energy that might have been expended to serve a more worthwhile cause. The obvious outcome has been that the peace efforts has remained bogged down for 3 long years, leading us to a dead end.

Although the Arabs clung to the international conference notion in the past so much, they nevertheless could not see eye to eye on the conference's terms of reference, the identity of potential partners—not to mention differences on the manner of Arab representation at the proposed parley. Certain Arab states had insisted that the Arabs go as a joint delegation. Others wanted to go individually in separate delegations. Still others wanted the Palestinians to be represented in a joint delegation with Jordan, or, alternatively, that the Palestinians be independently represented.

Even setting aside all these inter-Arab differences over the purview of the proposed conference and the identity of the potential participants, there remains an undeniable fact: All the international conferences that have been convened to addresss the Arab-Israeli dispute have never measured up to the hopes held out for them. If anything, they have proved to be a waste of time and a squandering of peace opportunities.

It follows that this week's call by the Arab League for the international community to take positive steps toward convening the international Middle East peace conference looks something like an attempt to bring the dead back to life. It is all the more surprising that the call was made at a time when international efforts to promote Israel's peace plan and elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are at a critical juncture. It is logical to suspect, then, that underlying this call is a premeditation to subvert these international efforts.

U.S. Capable of Applying Pressure in Relations

TA3011144789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Nov 89 p 11

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Man Does Not Live by Aid Alone"]

[Text] Who said there is tension in relations with the United States? Look at the heartwarming headlines reporting on U.S. threats to cut off its aid to the United Nations if that body harasses Israel on the issue of the "State of Palestine." Now that they have read the reports on the State Department's outspoken remarks against attempts to install the PLO in the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, what will the prophets of doom say? Our worst fears did not come true and are not even on the horizon. Once more, tense relations within the PLO rescued Israeli-U.S. relations, and Yitzhaq Shamir can exonerate himself. Furthermore, upon his return from his long trip, the prime minister with typical complacency brushed off Richard Cheney's remarks promising Shamir that the expected democratization and demilitarization of the East Bloc would not effect the strategic cooperation between Washington and Jerusalem. He was so spoiled there that the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee made him long for the halls of Capitol Hill.

The feeling is that we have seen this film, and more than once. In the Reagan-Shultz era Shamir used to leave for Washington with a stooped back and returned walking upright. He was warned that he is going to be kicked there, but since his hosts sufficed with a friendly slap on the wrist, the prime minister could again put on his garments of complacency. They said that the new tenants of the White House and the State Department were of tougher mettle. The "hard time" that preceded Shamir's meeting with the President was supposed to be proof of that. Indeed, it was unpleasant to hear the U.S. President preach about new settlements and ties with South Africa, but it definitely was not all that terrible. The PLO's twists and turns around its reply to Baker's five points pulled Shamir's chestnuts out of the fire.

The Shamir camp may enjoy the happy ending of this scenario, in which 'Arafat plays the bad guy who fires the deadly bullet at the elections plan. There is more than a slight suspicion that this is the role the Likud ministers slated for the PLO leader to begin with. The professional level correctly estimated 'Arafat's ability to tighten the rope tying him to Baker and Mubarak while confronting colleagues such as Ahmad Jibril. All the Likud's political echelon had to do was to weave constraints that would be too heavy for him. We will probably not know in the near future whether a positive and unconditional PLO reply would have brought Israel to the negotiating table in Cairo, or whether the expected contradictions between guarantees given Israel and the PLO would have provided Shamir and/or the constraints ministers with a way of escaping a first meeting with the representatives of the only organization which most of the Palestinians recognize as their sole representative. Either way, of course, this did not yield an alternative peace process. Not even Dan Meridor or Ehud Olmert maintain the illusion that Faysal al-Husayni would talk with them today without 'Arafat's blessing. The temporary profit Shamir could gain from the freeze could be a reasonable rate of erosion in relations between Israel and the United States.

The fear that the six assumptions of Shamir and his partners were meant to foil the Cairo meeting did not escape senior Washington officials. It was proven once

again, however, that as long as the U.S. Administration does not believe that this or the other side has missed a great opportunity for a political arrangement, or that its friends are playing with a fire that threatens to burn the Americans with the threat of bloodshed, and as long as their public is not overwhelmed by television images of oppression, it will not employ its heavy artillery—namely, foreign aid. It is true that the Likud's hardheadedness will not make the administration feel very enthusiastic about standing by Israel's side in international organizations. Last week we learned what the United Nations might have done to us were it not for our patron who threatened it. For the time being, however, no big dramas are expected in Jerusalem-Washington relations. At most they would signal the working echelons that Israel can be shot at indirectly.

Heads of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee have been reporting that the efforts to block arms deals with Arab countries are getting harder by the day. Cheney will not harm the strategic cooperation with Israel, God forbid. He will only tell Israel's friends on Capitol Hill how their opposition to the sale of tanks to Saudi Arabia would effect poverty data in their constituencies. Hard times are in store for the U.S. arms industry due to the cuts in the defense budget—the natural reaction to the new trends in Eastern Europe. It will not be able to afford to throw deep-pocketed Arabs out the door.

The U.S. Administration has the means to pressure Israel without employing the House of Representatives: The Congress cannot prevent clerks from carefully examining any allotment for Israeli industries given in the framework of the currency offset program, which affects some $400 million of the $1.8 billion in military aid. The Pentagon also has enough maneuvering room with the other $1.4 billion. It could examine technical or defense licenses for this or other items, conduct efficiency tests, and so on.

The civilian field as well provides opportunities for anyone who wants to cause Israel some damage without doing so through the annual audit routinely approved by Congress. The free trade zone agreement, for example, can allow U.S. Customs to conduct endless and brutal examinations of Israeli goods. If they so wished, the Americans could harm things like investments in Israel, export financing (such as the Boeing planes deal), or they could carefully examine the United Jewish Appeal.

The menu is on the table. Even if it has not yet been decided to serve us all its courses, we can still be fed the bitter dishes drop by drop, while the candies are given to the truly poor regimes that show a tendency to rid themselves of a world of conservative leadership and bygone doctrines.

King Husayn Accepts Bin-Shakir's Resignation

JN0412175689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1603 GMT 4 Dec 89

["Text" of letter from King Husayn to Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, accepting government resignation, dated 4 December—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Dear Excellency Brother al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, may God protect him. I send your excellency my best greetings and express to you my sincere friendship and high regards. I also greet your colleagues the ministers, who shared with you the honor of the trust and performed their duty under your excellency in the best way possible. This happened at a difficult and critical juncture during which you were able, with God's help and support, to rectify the course, establish sound foundations for the policy of economic and financial readjustment, prepare for general elections to the 11th House of Representatives, and hold the elections in an atmosphere of freedom and integrity and in a manner characterized by efficiency and competence. All this has accentuated the bright image of our Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on regional and international levels—the image you always have been eager to maintain in the various positions of responsibility you have assumed. Thanks and gratitude to you from us and from our dear Jordanian people.

As you chose, at the end of the transitional period culminated in the parliamentary elections, in order to make way for another colleague to continue the march at the beginning of a new stage, we accept the resignation of your government, wishing you and your colleagues who shouldered the responsibility with you all success. We are confident faithfulness, honesty, and dedication to duty will continue to be the hallmarks of your conduct wherever you are in the service of our cherished homeland, its dear sons, and our glorious nation.

We entrusted you with the duty, and you proved faithful and honest; we asked you to bear the responsibility, and you shouldered it with courage, persistence, and precision; we put our confidence in you, and you proved you were up to it. This is our march; we, the sons of Hashim, who made their journey to God and His prophet; and who dedicated themselves to all people, serving as did our ancestors, and acting as they did. We carry the trust and hand it down sound and well-preserved to the following generations. Thanks to God the Almighty; it is He who grants success. May God protect you as a brother, ally, friend, and companion along the march. My sincere appreciation, pride, friendship, and wishes to you.

Amman, 6 Jumada al-Ula, 1410 hegira, corresponding to 4 December 1989.

Praises Bin-Shakir, Government

JN0412185389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn at noon today received at the Royal Hashemite Court Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and the members of his resigned government. His majesty praised the dedication of the prime minister and his colleagues to their duties and the responsibilies they shouldered under most extreme and difficult circumstances. His majesty pointed out the resigned government did its duty during this stage with energy, zeal, and loyalty to his majesty and the Jordanian people.

His majesty said: You placed our people before a new era. We now are filled with optimism and good tidings and are confident all that is good will descend upon this country, nation, and all of us. His majesty affirmed the march continues to serve this country. Many have overtaken us down this long road. Our goals and aims are to defend this nation, maintain its Arab identity, and preserve its existence in the face of all challenges and evil forces that might target the Arab nation and system.

His majesty said: This is a difficult stage. However, these are difficulties we will overcome, as we always have done, with determination, willpower, cooperation, awareness, and realization of everyone's responsibilities toward our generations. He affirmed his pride in resigning Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and his colleagues. He pointed out the march will continue, and we all will work together, each in his own capacity, cooperating on everything that holds good for the nation, the Arabs, and coming generations.

The resigning prime minister expressed his and his colleagues' pride in Husayn's leadership and their honor at bearing their responsibilities. He acknowledged his majesty granted the resigning government the support and sympathy that enabled it to do its duty under the difficult circumstances our country endured. He said: Every colleague did his part to bear the burden of duty and carry it out as one team out of a sense of love for the homeland and loyalty to its cherished leader. We all will remain in your majesty's trust and high regard so every new position we assume will be an honor for us to serve this dear nation and contribute to its development and progress under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn.

His majesty asked the resigning government to continue performing its duties until the new government is formed.

Bin-Shakir's Letter of Resignation to King Husayn

JN0412184089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1606 GMT 4 Dec 89

["Text" of letter from Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir to King Husayn, submitting his government's resignation, dated 4 December — read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; My Lord Your Hashemite Majesty King Husayn, God protect and support you: It honors me, my lord, to send to your majesty the most beautiful greetings, along with the sincerest feelings of loyalty and fidelity to your glorious Hashemite throne and to your wise and creative leadership. God has honored me, your majesty, since my awareness of life, to be next to you and to accompany the years of your struggle to build modern Jordan. I learned a great deal from you. Time only has increased my admiration for your great capacity to give, granted to you by God, enriched by a deep sense of history, and developed by a creative exploration of the modern way of life.

Your sacrifices, my lord, have flowed with great and unequalled generosity: beginning with a continuous effort to concern yourself with every issue of your Jordanian family and going on to make a serious effort to hoist the Arab nation's banner; from a complete commitment to support the Islamic causes to an aware openness of the world's concerns and challenges of the age. Every one of our Jordanian villages has a place in your heart; every citizen in our deserts or cities has a place in your soul; every Arab and Muslim across our country comes within the realm of your vision; every just humanitarian or international cause has a share of your interest.

I remember with great pride the stages of building modern Jordan in the days of Arabizing the Army and strengthening independence. I also recall with great pride your majesty's stands in defense of the Arab nation. The al-Karamah Battle and your true support and deep commitment to defend the Arab territory in Iraq stand out clearly as a brilliant page in the book of a long history of struggle and sacrifice.

You honored me, my lord, by giving me responsibility at a very sensitive stage of our life. Along with my colleagues the ministers, during the past months I did my utmost to implement Your Majesty's directives in your letter of designation. The government confronted the economic crisis and took the measures it could to achieve monetary and financial stability. The government gave special attention to issues directly affecting the life of the citizen. It concentrated on protecting him from greed and exploitation. It also approved fixed economic and social programs which could alleviate the phenomenon of unemployment and combat poverty.

In the time the government was given, it concentrated on developing the administration according to a studied scientific program. It also tried to improve social services on a comprehensive basis, especially in the fields of education and health. It set as a priority, before everything else, the task of providing support to our courageous Armed Forces, support which would raise the status of this towering monument in our country. The government tried to fulfil Your Majesty's aspirations to strengthen a cohesive society in which every citizen reaches self-fulfilment in an atmosphere of freedom and justice.

Now, after a phase of strengthening this structure—thanks be to God and with your majesty's support—has been accomplished by holding general parliamentary elections, I am honored to send to your majesty my government's resignation to make way for a new government that will shoulder the burdens of the next phase. I take this opportunity to refer to your majesty the pride of my colleagues, the ministers', and of myself, at being granted the valuable royal trust which we enjoyed and the honor we received throughout the existence of our government. We hope to almighty God we have fulfilled the pledge and performed the duty. We hope He protects your majesty's efforts for the benefit of your Jordanian family and Arab nation. We hope He grants you health and happiness.

[Signed] Your loyal servant Zayd Bin-Shakir; Amman 6 Jumada al-Ula, 1410 hegira, corresponding to 4 December, 1989 a.d.

Husayn's Letter Naming Badran To Form Government

JN0412180289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1613 GMT 4 Dec 89

["Text" of King Husayn's letter designating Mudar Badran head of new government; dated 4 December—read by announcer].

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has charged Mr Mudar Badran with forming and leading the new government. His majesty addressed the following letter of designation to Mr Badran:

In the name of God, the merciful, and the compassionate: Dear brother Mudar Badran, may God protect him: I extend to you my greetings with all my confidence and appreciation. I take pleasure in addressing myself to you at a time when the homeland is at the threshold of a new era that began with parliamentary elections, which, thanks be to God, were conducted in an atmosphere of freedom and tranquility. These elections have enhanced our determination to continue the march of progess and building in an atmosphere of stability and security, with a spirit of resolve and firmness, and under the patronage of parliamentary democracy; these factors secure the best terms for participation, cooperation and responsibile dialogue as we address the issues that preoccupy the nation, take on the challenges of the homeland and society's problems, and press ahead with the reform and readjustment process we have begun.

In view of the resignation of His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir's government, and our experience of your genuine patriotism, pan-Arab dedication, personal integrity, and honesty in the fulfilment of your duties, your understanding of the affairs of state, your comprehensive outlook, accurate and exact performance, and your sympathy with the yearnings and concerns of the citizens, we task you with forming and heading the new government as we pass through this crucial stage, while the hearts of all Jordanians are full of hope for the success of the democratic principle in seeking solutions to the homeland's

problems, and enhancing its impregnability and stability. Accordingly, in order to reach our goal, and, having relied on God, we suggest the following principles and guidelines be made the focus of your attention:

Foreign Affairs:

1. Maintain the openness, contacts, and interaction with the nations of the world and various international organizations to consolidate the good relations we have promoted and the credibility we have built up with them; and, based on our commitment to the principles of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference Organization, to advance our national and pan-Arab interests, in harmony with our respect for humanitarian values.
2. Honor the existing bilateral agreements between our country and other nations and work in accordance with them to serve our common interests, and develop and revise these accords in agreement with the other parties as the need arises.

Arab Affairs:

1. Commitment to the Arab League Charter and the Arab summit resolutions within the spirit of our pan-Arab obligations and championing the causes of our nation, especially the Palestinian cause.
2. The Arab Cooperation Council is the hope of our Arab peoples. It is a promising sapling that needs to be nurtured and fostered through the implementation of the agreements made by the council and by adding whatever we can to them to fulfil the aspirations of our Arab peoples in terms of complementarity, unity, and sound, solid structures.
3. Continuing our commitment to support the families of the blessed Palestinian intifadah and work alongside the PLO to back the steadfastness of our Palestinian brothers in their occupied land through the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for the Support of Steadfastness.
4. Following our decision to disengage our legal and administrative relations with the West Bank, it is important we take whatever possible further measures we can to offer facilities to our Palestinian brothers and support their steadfastness in coordination with the PLO—the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—in light of our clear policy based on standing side by side with the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle to exercise their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.
5. Continue to carry out our duty toward the Islamic and Christian sanctities, especially holy Jerusalem, the Islamic courts, the Islamic awqaf, and other affiliated institutions in the occupied Arab territories.

The National Field:

1. Security and stability are the pillars of development and prosperity. Therefore, our Armed Forces and the Public Security institutions must enjoy every care and interest to enable them to continue to carry out their national duty in protecting the homeland's security and providing peace of mind for the citizen to continue the process of construction and building in an atmosphere of confidence and apart from fear, anxiety, and terrorism.
2. Democracy is a way of life that is confined not only to parliamentary life. Hence, I stress the importance of broadening and consolidating it in order to protect and entrench its implications. Democracy also means a responsible freedom within the framework of the law. Therefore, the issue of public liberties, which is an essential part of human rights, should enjoy similar respect, interest, protection, and care to that deserved by the general order, because the harmony and integration of these liberties constitute an important base for our national security, and a protective shield for democracy.

The most prominent factor giving democracy its meaning and implications is the supremacy of the law and respect for other people's opinions. All citizens, regardless of their origins, beliefs, ideologies, and races, are equal before the law, and it is the duty of the government to consider, safeguard, and apply this principle, not only because it is a constitutional ruling, but also because it is a way to guarantee the strengthening of national unity; the removal of a sense of injustice; the deepening of one's love of and loyalty to the homeland; and the release of the forces of creativity and initiative, especially within the framework of the principle of equal opportunity and the citizens' enjoyment of public liberties guaranteed by the constitution and stated in the law.

Regarding respect for the other people's opinions, which is one of the pillars of democracy: This means abidance by the principle of tolerance by the various factions of the people. This is a natural disposition in our society, and is called for by our true Islamic religion, just as it means the government also should do its duty to protect that tolerance within the framework of the law in order to safeguard our sacred national unity.

The resumption of our democratic parliamentary life opens the way for popular participation, which means the parliament will monitor the government and closely cooperate with it in the framework of constructive dialogue and a sense of national responsibility to avoid impeding the people's real interests and to speed up the readjustment, reform, and continuation of the march of progress and development according to the requirements of evolution dictated by need and the changes of the age.

The Social Field:

1. Achieving social security requires the continued implementation of the necessary measures to deal with the phenomenon of unemployment and the pockets of poverty through a comprehensive short-term and intermediate-term policy that can increase labor opportunities in all areas of the Kingdom, provide more opportunities for training and guidance, and apply teaching and training programs in order to guarantee educational and vocational distinction to Jordanian citizens and to provide the necessary financing to establish small projects.
2. Working to achieve the best possible level of balance between the state's regions and the factions of society, including the promotion of relevant concepts and the

amendment of legislation affiliated with these two points, in order to promote social justice and emphasize the principle of social cooperation.

3. Expanding family planning programs; supporting day-care and maternity centers; providing direct support to citizens whose inability to work is recognized as a result of old age or illness; enforcing the law of the handicapped; and providing health care for them.

4. Continuing to extend services to all areas of the Kingdom and to perpetuate the services' various means and networks.

The Cultural and Information Field:

1. The attainment of educational, professional, ethical, and administrative distinction is the most exemplary way to compensate for the state's scarce natural resources. It is necessary to carry out intensive studies of the various training programs, implement educational development plans, and ascertain the curricula laid down and the male and female teachers' training programs are in line with the rules that govern scientific thinking, affirm our cultural identity, guarantee a broader, in-depth knowledge of our national and pan-Arab reality within its boundaries and challenges, and provide a deep awareness of environmental problems and the means to protect the environment.

2. The freedom our country enjoys is a healthy climate for the development of cultural and youth institutions. From this premise, attention must be paid to these institutions to enable them to perform their mission of discovering and nurturing talents, encouraging the young generation and mobilizing their potentials in the field of voluntary collective action, whether on the national or local community level.

3. The various information agencies are the reflection of society, and one of the forms of civic education in this society. Therefore, while we enter the democratic experience with awareness and responsibility, it is necessary to have the government work for the development and organization of these agencies in terms of methods and contents, including a revision of the press and publications law to harmonize it with this new spirit.

4. We live in an age where rapid changes take place in the wake of scientific and technological development. It is necessary to pay special attention to scientific research in the various scientific establishments and institutes, and approach them in a serious manner.

The Economic and Financial Field:

There is no doubt the debt problem and the economic recession which the country has experienced during the past 2 years will be our primary preoccupation in the next stage. The previous government had laid down the basis for tackling the economic and financial state of affairs and recharting the course. It achieved notable success, which should be further enhanced. We must pursue the policy of reforms until our national economy regains its vitality.

To achieve this, the following steps are needed:

1. To direct the economic policy toward accelerating growth rates, increasing investments, and upgrading production levels to create additional job opportunities.

2. To tackle the causes of the imbalances and faults from which the national economy suffers as a result of the scarcity of resources. This requires a diligent search for the development of our mineral, touristic, and agricultural resources, and exploiting them in the best possible manner.

3. To intensify contacts and interaction with global countries to increase our national exports in terms of goods and services.

4. To revitalize the private sector, and amend the related laws and regulations in a way that will secure this objective in an unambiguous manner and within the framework of equal opportunities.

5. To expedite the passing of appropriate legislation to combat economic crimes in all their forms.

6. To support and pay special attention to the establishment of small- and medium-sized ventures and projects for the extraction and classification of minerals.

7. To pursue the implementation of a medium-term economic readjustment program to re-establish economic and social balance through controlling the financial deficit and gradually reducing it so public expenditures will be offset by the local revenues of the treasury.

8. To pursue the attempts at building the kingdom's foreign currency reserves with the purpose of attaining a balance between the kingdom's revenues and payments abroad, and the preservation of the Jordanian dinar's rate of exchange.

9. Sound financial management is one of the utmost priorities at this stage. This calls for the adoption of an appropriate strategy for tackling foreign debts, a strategy that will enact the necessary controls for channeling foreign funds toward development and prevent the debt from exceeding the limits our economy can deal with.

We are facing many challenges. Some of these challenges are familiar, and others are new. We have experienced more crucial and difficult circumstances before. With God's help, the citizens' maturity and the loyalty and dedication of those in charge, we succeeded in confronting and overcoming these challenges. The story of our country is one of steadfastness and firmness in the face of perils and challenges and one of work and struggle to achieve progress, invincibility, and development. Your sincere determination, our people's staunch will, and the new era crowned with the participation of parliamentary life makes me more confident in our ability to overcome the obstacles and pursue the march of development and construction. We await your recommendations with respect to the names of your colleagues the ministers, and we wish you success in the performance of your duties. We ask God Almighty to guide our steps.

[Signed] Amman, 6 Jumada al-Ula 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 4 December 1989

'Initial List' of New Cabinet Members Cited

JN0412063589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Dec 89 p 1

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES Staff Writer]

[Text] Amman—The government of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir is expected to submit its resignation Monday and Mudar Badran will be named as his sucessor heading a new Cabinet which will retain some of the present ministers, according to informed sources.

The sources said a tentative "initial list" had been drawn up of the new Cabinet and Badran, who served as prime minister for two terms in the late 1970s and early 1980s, was not expected to announce his government for "at least another couple of days."

According to information available to the JORDAN TIMES from sources who insisted on anonymity, the following were considered as members of Badran's Cabinet:

Salim Masa'idah to remain as deputy prime minister and interior minister and Marwan al-Qasim as deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, serving minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs, as minister of culture and information;

Yanal Hikmat to retain his tourism portfolio and Ibrahim Ayyub to remain as minister supply;

'Abdallah al-Nusur, a former minister and serving member of the Lower House of Parliament representing al-Balqa' Governorate, as minister of planning;

Dhuqan al-Hindawi, a former minister and serving deputy representing Irbid governorate, as minister of education;

Hamad al-Farhan, a member of the Upper House of Parliament, was tipped to be either minister of state for economic affairs or minister of finance; (there was also an indication that the Ministry of Industry and Trade could be amalgamated with the Ministry of Finance and Customs to form a single portfolio).

Ishaq al-Farhan, a former university president, to head the Ministry of Higher Education;

'Ali al-Faqir, a Lower House member who was elected with Muslim Brotherhood help from Amman Governorate, as Minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs;

'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, former minister and mayor of Amman and a deputy representing Irbid Governorate, as minister of municipal affairs and the environment;

Husayn Mujalli, former head of the Jordan Bar Association and serving deputy representing Irbid Governorate, as minister of justice;

Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam, a former senior official at the Prime Ministry, as minister of labour;

Shafiq Zawayidah, a former minister of housing and public works who resigned to seek a seat in Parliament in the Nov. 8 general elections but lost the race, to return to his portfolio; and

Sa'd-al-Din Jum'ah, secretary-general of the Prime Ministry, as minister of state for parliamentary affairs.

Among other names which could appear in the final list of Badran's government, according to the sources, are: Muhammad 'Addub al-Zabn, a former minister and serving deputy, Anis Mu'ashshar, head of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Kamil al-Sharif, a former minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs, Mahmud al-Sharif, a veteran journalist and former editor-in-chief of AL-DUSTUR, and Dawud Hananiyah, a senator and former head of the National Medical Insitution (NMI).

"This is an only initial list and nothing is final yet," insisted one of the sources. He said al-Sharif Zayd, a Field Marshal and former commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, was tipped to return to the Royal Court to replace Badran.

Some of the people whose names were mentioned told the JORDAN TIMES Sunday evening that they had not been contacted over their possible appointments to the Cabinet.

Al-Sharif Zayd and his Cabinet is scheduled to be received by the King at the royal palace Monday where the Monarch will accept his resignation and designate Badran to succeed him, according to the sources. It was believed that Badran will launch consultations with nominees after he is formally assigned the job of heading the next government.

The expected appointment of Badran, 55, who enjoys a wide reputation in the Arab World as a "politician with persuasive powers," came as surprise to some observers who had expected al-Sharif Zayd to stay on and form a new Cabinet.

Al-Sharif Zayd was appointed prime minister in April 1989 to succeed Zayd al-Rifa'i, who resigned following unrest against price rises in the country warranted by economic problems. In his letter of designation to the career military officer, the King said his government would act in caretaker capacity and see the country through the general elections to the Lower House of Parliament and put an end to economic crimes as well as redress the Kingdom's economic course.

Al-Sharif Zayd, who headed a mostly technocrat cabinet, is credited with bringing about swift changes in the government and administration and initiating Jordan's recovery from dire financial straits through revamping the Central Bank hierarchy. He also supervised the Nov. 8 elections, widely hailed as the most free and honest elections in the Arab World.

During his two terms as prime minister—from 1976 to 1979 and from 1980 to 1984—Badran, who is reputedly an expert in legal and constitutional matters, saw the booming of the Jordanian economy with the flow of

expatriate remittances and Arab aid to Jordan and initiated many major industrial projects. He is also credited with taking decisive action against corruption in the civil services.

Political Detainees Freed; 'Half' PFLP Members

JN0312074389 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Dec 89 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Suhayr 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Amman—The government Saturday released 48 political detainees in what was seen as another major stride towards increased political freedoms after the Nov. 8 general elections to the Lower House of Parliament.

The announcement of the release was made by Lower House Speaker Sulayman 'Arar during the first regular House session after His Majesty King Husayn opened Parliament Nov. 27. The session was convened to discuss, amend and approve the House's reply to the King's speech from the Throne.

'Arar said the release of the detainees, half of whom belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) detained in October, came in line with a directive from King Husayn. There was no immediate explanation to a discrepancy in the number of detainees. According to an official statement issued at that time, only 12 PFLP members were detained in October for security reasons.

The release was interpreted by political analysts as the fulfilment of a pledge that the King has made to allow political parties to operate in the Kingdom after a 32-year hiatus.

During Saturday's session, the full House heard the draft prepared by a special House committee in reply to the speech from the Throne. As the session began, it appeared that the deputies had prepared themselves for very lengthy discussions of each paragraph and even each sentence of the 23 pages of the reply.

Starting at about 10 a.m., the session ended at 7:45 p.m., with three breaks for prayers and lunch. The drawn-out session included many instances when deputies strayed from the main theme of the session. 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah kept on reminding his colleagues of the need to stick to the point, saying that they will come to other matters in due time.

Not many alterations to the reply draft were approved, though many were suggested. Most of the suggestions did not opt for fundamental changes in the text, rather on the linguistic style, which resulted in very lengthy discussions of terminologies in the text. Each point was put to vote and majority decisions prevailed.

According to a draft available to the JORDAN TIMES, the House called for lifting martial law and revising a 1935 legislation which grants wide powers to the executive authorities. Another demand was for the establishment of a constitutional court and measures to strenghten the independence of the judiciary.

It condemned American support for Israel, urges strengthening of the Armed Forces and called for a faster democratic process.

"(The House) condemns the United States' policy which thwarts every international decision that condemns Israel or supports just Arab causes," it said.

It called on the King to provide the Armed Forces with "total support, training and modern equipment and weapons to enable it to perform its sacred task of defending the country and liberating all the (occupied) territories..."

The House endorsed the King's July 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, stressing that the decision did not mean that Jordan was abandoning the Palestinian cause. It pledged Jordan's constant support for the Palestinian uprising and the entire Palestinian cause.

The Nov. 8 elections in Jordan "displayed the awareness of our people and undermined the chances of those who call for a substitute Palestinian homeland in Jordan," the House said.

On the economic front, the House said it felt that "we should look into the reasons that led to the economic crisis and pinpoint responsibility and roles to ensure that the tragedy will not be repeated and the people are confident that their march is in the right direction."

The House welcomed moves undertaken by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to address the economic situation and underlined the need to maintain the CBJ's independence and its control over banks and other financial institutions. It specifically referred to what it described as "the past errors of the Central Bank and Petra Bank" and said "it is necessary to reveal the facts."

The House called for increased attention to be paid to utilisation of local material in industries and improvement in production in quality as well as quantity.

It expressed concern over "the non-economic reasons leading to rising (consumer) prices which exceeded the level of the decline of the Jordanian dinar."

The reference in the draft to the national charter proposed by His Majesty King Husayn remained unchanged although heated discussions preceded its approval. The points of contentions included whether or not the House should draft or contribute to the drafting of the charter since the King has said that a royal commission will be entrusted with the task. The House reply, as approved, said the assembly hoped to contribute to drafting the charter. The King has said that the charter will be presented to the people for a referendum, and deputies also debated this

point, arguing whether the plebiscite should be held before or after Parliament approves the charter.

After failing to reach concensus on a delegation to presnt the reply to the King as an audience Sunday, it was decided that the entire House would attend.

The next regular session of the House will be held Wednesday when the various committees of the assembly will be elected. These include the administrative, financial, legal and foreign affairs committees.

In the meantime, a petition signed by at least 14 deputies was being circulated calling for a national holiday on Dec. 9, to mark the beginning of the third year of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

House Thanks King for Release

JN0312104889 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Amman, 3 Dec (PETRA)— The House of Representatives has praised His Majesty King Husayn's wise policy characterized by level-headedness and good sense. The house expressed its most solemn assurances of loyalty, gratitude, and appreciation to his majesty for his stands, which abound with goodness for the benefit of the Jordanian family.

This came in a cable addressed by House of Representatives Speaker Sulayman 'Arar to his majesty yesterday evening. The following is the text of the cable:

Your Hashemite Majesty King Husayn, God protect and preserve you: After presenting the most profound and heartfelt greetings and sentiments to your noble status, the house heard in its session on 2 December, 1989, the report presented by the speaker of the house about your blessed step of releasing political detainees.

On this occasion, we are happy to laud your majesty's wise policy—a policy characterized by level-headedness and good sense—and to present your majesty with the most solemn assurances of loyalty, fidelity, gratitude, and appreciation. We are certain your stands, which are abundant with goodness in the interest of the Jordanian family, will bring your steadfast and fortified country to its aspirations of glory, prosperity, sovereignty, and dignity. We wish your majesty success and call on God, the Almighty, to grant us the ability to make wise decisions for the benefit of this nation and the great Arab homeland under your guidance and leadership.

[Signed] House of Representatives Speaker Sulayman 'Arar.

House of Representatives Denounces U.S. Stand

JN0312115889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Dec 89 p 20

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—During its session yesterday, the House of Representatives decided to denounce the U.S. support to the Zionist entity and its opposition to Arab rights and the Palestinian cause.

This denunciation came following a motion by Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant.

'Arafat To Arrive in Amman 'Within Next 2 Days'

JN0312111089 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Amman within the next 2 days on a visit, during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn and ranking Jordanian officials, dealing with the developments in the Arab and international arena.

PLO's Milhim Urges Arab Influence on U.S.

JN0212090989 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Dec 89 pp 1, 13

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman,—PLO Executive Committee Member Muhammad Milhim has stated the Jordanian stand, which supports the Palestinian cause and the PLO's position, should be an example for the Arab stance, which in the Algiers and Casablanca summits committed itself to the support of the heroic intifadah and the PLO's political activity in the international arena.

In an interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B, the PLO's Executive Committee member added Jordan's support is being demonstrated every day through the continuous opening of bridges facilitating the transport of citizens and goods, as well as continued coordination with the PLO. Milhim praised what King Husayn said in his inaugural speech of the Parliament about Jordan's commitment to the Palestinian cause and people.

Milhim asked the Arab states to focus their efforts on the United States, noting the U.S. position will depend on the Arab states' commitment to supporting the Palestinian intifadah and the PLO's political activities, so Washington and Israel will realize the Arabs are translating their words into deeds concerning the Palestinian cause.

Milhim ruled out a bilateral solution to the Palestine question, saying the talk of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue comes within the Palestinian peace plan adopted by the Arab summit. The plan also constitutes a step on the way to the forthcoming stage of solution in which the confrontation countries, led by Jordan, should be a major party. The confrontation countries should sit side by side with the PLO, facing the enemy who occupies the territories of three Arab states, excluding the homeland Palestine.

Milhim also paid tribute to the Egyptian efforts, which come within the framework of Arab coordination, adding that the Palestinian leadership fully appreciates these efforts.

Al-Hirawi Urges Arabs To Help Stop Rebellion

NC0412145689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today sent cables to the leaders of the Arab tripartite committee and the Arab kings and presidents, calling on them to assist in implementing the Arab solution. In his cables he said: In order to open the way to peaceful solutions and avoid bloodshed, we responded to local and outside appeals to delay the decisive action for a few days in the hope that the interest of the homeland and the people would prevail over all other interests among those concerned.

President al-Hirawi added: The steps that have been taken are being met by the former army commander's failure to submit to the legitimate authority's decisions and by his rebellion against the decision to relieve him of his duties. He is still controlling the Presidential Palace and some government institutions by force. If this situation continues, it will jeopardize the process of reconciliation and peace and the efforts to revive the legitimate and constitutional authorities. The situation requires decisive action to put an end to this abnormal state.

President al-Hirawi called on the leaders of the Arab committee member states to continue their efforts to end the rebellion which is obstructing the implementation of the national accord document.

Al-Hirawi Offers 'Olive Branch' to Eastern Area

NC0412210689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] An almost total consensus has materialized, locally and internationally, on the need to exercise self-restraint and deal with matters rationally and patiently to find a way out of the Lebanese crisis, which is portending military confrontations. Efforts have succeeded to a certain extent in delaying any explosion, thus providing a new opportunity for discussions and consultations. All this has been achieved by virtue of the results of the summit of the two superpower leaders and the French efforts, as well as the concern shown by the Arab committee and the activities of local leaders.

It is on this basis that President al-Hirawi said today that a meeting will take place in the eastern area soon. He hastened to explain by saying: With an olive branch everything can be achieved. He said: We are coming with an olive branch in our hand.

Speaking to the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, President al-Hirawi expressed the hope that all current problems will be resolved for the sake of Lebanon's unity—land, people, and institutions. He asserted his determination to work to implement the required reforms and achieve sovereignty. He reiterated that he holds an olive branch in his hand.

Al-Hirawi's visitors have cited him as saying that he will leave his temporary headquarters in Ablah only to go to Ba'bda, and that he will continue to deal with the situation until a settlement is reached that is acceptable to all.

Al-Hirawi Warns of 'Hysteria' in Eastern Area

NC0512073289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] In an interview with AL-NAHAR newspaper, President Ilyas al-Hirawi described the situation in the eastern area as being one of hysteria. He said that he has opened the way for ongoing mediations and he is waiting for quick results. He reiterated that the state is the state, the law is the law, and the legitimate authority is the legitimate authority, and the usurpers cannot remain in their positions.

He revealed that he was contacted 2 days ago by John Kelly, U.S. under secretary of state for Middle East affairs, in which he stressed on behalf of the United States that a solution is imminent, that Lebanon will return to stability, and that its sovereignty over its territories will be restored soon.

Al-Hirawi added that after he studies the security situation in all Lebanese areas, and when the abnormal situation now in the eastern area is removed, he and the government will ask Syria to withdraw its army from the areas where the state can impose its sovereignty. He also said that this would be done at the earliest possible opportunity.

Al-Hirawi Vows To Regain Constitutional Powers

NC0512080189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] In an interview with a French television station, President Ilyas al-Hirawi emphasized his determination to regain all his constitutional powers. He said that the situation merits no more delays and that the next 10 days are enough to receive final answers and make appropriate decisions.

Harb Discusses French Support for Government

JN0112211789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Dec 89

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpt] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has dispatched Lebanese Deputy Butrus Harb to Paris. Harb delivered a letter to French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas for President Mitterrand from President al-Hirawi. Following Harb's meeting with Dumas at the Foreign Ministry, [Radio Monte Carlo correspondent] Kamal Tarabayh asked him about the contents of the letter and what the Lebanese president wanted from the French.

[Begin recording] [Tarabayh] You arrived in Paris and handed a letter from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi

to the French authorities. Can you tell us about the contents of the letter and the Lebanese authorities' answer?

[Harb] His Excellency President al-Hirawi has entrusted me with conveying a letter to the French authorities. The letter seeks to explain the Lebanese situation in detail, and to present the crisis in Lebanon, giving the French Government and officials the opportunity to learn about the real conditions in Lebanon. This will enable the French Government to follow its policy in Lebanon with the same understanding to which we have been accustomed, and to extend any assistance it has to contribute toward solving the Lebanese crisis.

In fact I met twice with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and with Mr Blanca, the general secretary of the French Presidency. I presented the letter, which President al-Hirawi sent to the French authorities, and found that the French officials have a deep understanding of the Lebanese situation. The French clearly support President al-Hirawi and his legitimate government, considering that it is better under the current circumstances to provide the factors that would help solve the problem in Lebanon by peaceful means and democratic methods of dialogue. Naturally, this position is in harmony with President al-Hirawi's position and the policy of the Lebanese Government, because no one wants to use violence to solve outstanding problems. All efforts are being made to solve outstanding problems by peaceful means. [passage omitted] [end recording]

French Envoy Receives Message for Mitterrand

NC0412164389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Salah Sutaytiyah, Foreign Ministry acting secretary general, has given French Ambassador Rene Ala a message from President al-Hirawi to President Francois Mitterrand. Sutaytiyah summoned the French ambassador this morning and informed him of the legitimate Lebanese authorities' position on recent developments in light of the French position on these developments.

After the meeting, Ambassador Ala was asked about the French deputies' visit to General 'Awn. He replied that he was not in touch with them at the time. He added that they wished to express their understanding of what was happening in Lebanon and B'abda.

'Awn Questions World Reaction to Eastern Area

NC0312141389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] The people's sit-in at B'abda Palace in support of Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn's positions continued for a 7th day today. Gen 'Awn today continued to receive popular and union delegations supporting him.

In conversations with newsmen this morning, Gen 'Awn said: We are friends of all Western Europe and welcome its peoples and embassies if they want to live among us, even if they recognize the other side. However, he expressed surprise that recognition should be accorded to a state to which those recognizing it cannot go because their security demands that they be outside the boundaries of its authority.

He also expressed surprise at how the world denounces terrorism and at the same time supports a state which exports terrorism and narcotics. What is needed is not for these states to justify such behavior to us but to their peoples, he said. We were waging a war for the liberation of Lebanon, and now we are facing a war against the free people of Lebanon.

He also wondered how the UN Security Council will be able to justify the statement it issued following the elections in al-Qulay'at, when this council was established to prevent the aggression of one state against another and resolve conflicts through its resolutions and moral authority.

'Awn Comments on Position of Bush, Gorbachev

NC0412132489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] At the B'abda Palace, where the sit-in continues, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn today received National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un. He also received a French delegation led by (Marcel Khobary). Gen 'Awn told the French delegation that the position of Presidents Bush and Gorbachev, who reject military action, is frank and clear, but he also asked: Will the Syrian regime respect the decision of the two superpowers? He said: We have full confidence in these two great men, but will the Syrian regime agree to respect such decisions? Therefore, Gen 'Awn added, we want to defend ourselves by all means and by the power of right which we possess but which they do not recognize. He concluded: They disrupted everything for us in the name our Constitution.

'Awn 'Ready to Negotiate' on Syria's Interests

NC0412212589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] In an interview with a U.S. television network, Prime Minister General Michael 'Awn said he would like to reach a political compromise with Syria that would respect our basic rights and at the same time take care of Syria's vital interests and be legitimate.

Asked what he means by Syrian vital interests, Gen 'Awn said: Syria must define its vital interests and negotiate with us on them. He explained that the principles of the vital interests of neighboring countries have been recognized by the international community. In this respect I am ready to negotiate, he said. He noted that negotiations would deal with everything they propose. What they propose could be acceptable within the context of the terms of our basic rights—that we have an independent Lebanon, enjoying its sovereignty, he stated.

Asked whether this means that he accepts the presence of Syrian troops on Lebanese territory, Gen 'Awn said: If they show that this is in their vital interest, they must convince us that this is the reason and there are no other reasons. If they are here for defense, we will accept. But if they are here in order to rule Lebanon through their forces, we will not accept that this comes within the context of vital interests.

Asked whether the Syrians will have to withdraw before he can negotiate with them, Gen 'Awn said: If positive negotiations begin, this will not be necessary. We must sit down and negotiate. He said: Don't ask me what I am going to propose to the Syrians. I will never guess what the Syrians want. They will have to say what they want in Lebanon.

Sa'adah Returns to Eastern Area, Meets Sfayr

NC0212132789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] What is politically new this afternoon is that Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah arrived in the eastern area from Shibtin. This is the first time he returned to the eastern area since he went to al-Ta'if on 29 September. Dr Sa'adah arrived suddenly at the Patriarchate Seat in Bkirki at approximately 1210. He met with Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr until approximately 1245. After the meeting, Sa'adah said:

[Begin Sa'adah recording] It was natural to visit his beautitude the patriarch. It has been some time since we met with his beautitude. My views on Bkirki's authority are known. Therefore, I met with his beautitude the patriarch and we discussed matters during this very critical and delicate stage. I heard his views and I conveyed to him my views and those of the Phalangist Party. All are determined to stand united to face the dangers surrounding Lebanon. [end recording]

After his meeting with Patriarch Sfayr, Dr Sa'adah left Bkirki for an undisclosed location.

Phalangist Leader Sa'adah Continues Contacts

Heads Out on 'Surprise Trip'

NC0312160989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah left al-Qulay'at Airport aboard a private aircraft for an undisclosed destination this afternoon. He will continue his contacts and efforts with the appropriate officials within and outside Lebanon. He visisted Bkirki yesterday and contacted other key officials as part of his efforts to save Lebanon within the framework of the regional and international endeavors to bring it out of the current impasse. He canceled all his other engagements to make this surprise trip.

In a statement to the Mirage radio, Dr Sa'adah said: We do not differ with anyone over slogans, but the differences are over the way of achieving these slogans. He stated: We proceeded with the al-Ta'if agreement on the basis that it was an agreement of peace, but when we found out that the means of implementation might turn the peace document into a war document, we adopted a different position. He asserted: We have no personal interests and only seek Lebanese interests wherever we can guarantee them. He recalled that the al-Ta'if agreement was reached after all political and military means had been used to oust the Syrian forces from Lebanon.

Travels to Paris, Saudi Arabia

NC0412075789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Dr George Sa'adah, minister of post and telecommunications, left Lebanon unexpectedly yesterday afternoon. He is expected in Paris today and will leave for Saudi Arabia tomorrow. He boarded a private plane from the al-Qulay'at military airport.

Arrives in Riyadh From Paris

NC0412115289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Lebanese Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah arrived in Riyadh this morning and went to a meeting of the Arab tripartite committee. The committee is meeting with Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi to review developments in the Lebanese crisis.

Dr Sa'adah arrived in Paris last night and met with a number of French officials. He also met with Lebanese deputies Nasri al-M'aluf, Michel Sasin, and Butrus Harb, who briefed him on the results of their consultations and meetings with EC officials.

Hizballah, Amal Clash in Western al-Biqa'

NC0412055189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Clashes between Hizballah and the Amal Movement have been taking place in the towns of Mashgharah and Suhmur in western al-Biqa' since 0300 today. The Syrian forces are trying to end the clashes in which rockets and machineguns are being used.

Fighting Leaves 15 Dead

NC0412161289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Citing a Lebanese security source in Rashayya, AFP has reported that violent clashes occurred between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in eastern Lebanon, where the Syrian Army is deployed. The agency said that the fighting left at least 15 people dead and resulted in Hizballah's capturing Yuhmur village and advancing into Suhmur township. The security source added that

Amal and Hizballah fighters used machineguns, anti-tank rockets, and mortars in the clashes.

Last night there was fighting between the two parties in Suhmur, to the south of the al-Biqa' valley. The Syrian forces in the area intervened to calm the situation. It should be noted that on 19 November Amal and Hizballah agreed, under the aegis of the Syrian Army, to observe a cease-fire. According to the latest reports, the clashes are still in progress.

Fierce clashes also took place between Amal and Hizballah in the al-Nabatiyah area in the South. As a result of the fighting, which caused several casualties, Amal gunmen were forced to evacuate some positions in the area.

Amal sources in the south have accused Hizballah of cooperating with Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and of establishing a construction network in the south. The sources added that Hizballah has received equipment, including anti-tank weapons and rocket launchers, from the two organizations, and established a joint operations room with them under the command of Hasan 'Ali Tulays.

Cease-Fire Agreed Upon

NC0412194589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The situation in western al-Biqa' was discussed at a meeting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the presence of Syrian and Iranian officials. The two sides agreed to establish a cease-fire, restore the situation to what it was before, and form a field court.

AFP reported earlier today from al-Biqa' that more than 15 people were killed in fighting between Amal and Hizballah.

Hizballah Seizes More Villages

NC0512072489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Hizballah has seized control of the villages of Suhmur, Yuhmur, and Mashgharah in western al-Biqa' following fierce clashes with the Amal Movement. Reports from the area said that more than 40 persons were killed or wounded in these clashes. Hizballah raided houses and arrested a number of Amal members. Because of this, both parties have placed their gunmen on alert in the Southern Suburb.

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said that the enemy inside Lebanon and abroad are betting on these Amal-Hizballah clashes. He added that it always starts with a small clash that develops into large scale clashes.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0615 GMT on 5 December in a similar reports adds: "Similar clashes between Amal and Hizballah have taken place in the south near the al-Nabatiyah area."]

Al-Musawi on U.S. Role in Inter-Shiite Fighting

NC0312082789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Commenting on the current situation, brother Husayn al-Musawi [leader of the Islamic Amal Movement] has stated: We are fighting Israel and its agents because they disobey God's orders and use force against the Islamic mission and the Islamic resistance movement, which is striving to liberate Islam's holy places.

Addressing Muslims who fought among themselves in the south, western al-Biqa', and the Southern Suburb of Beirut, Al-Musawi said: Was this fighting among yourselves done to raise the banner of Islam and uphold the word of God or was it done to raise the banner of a local street leader here or there? We must examine the reasons for this fighting because it is possible that in some cases the United States and its allies were behind it. He added: One spy could cause widespread sedition that could destroy one sect and community. Sedition is the work of polytheist forces who are hostile to God and who disregard the interests of Islam and Muslims.

Al-Musawi stressed: The United States has two policies. It gives the impression to some of its Arab friends, such as Fahd and the ruler of Morocco, that it supports and helps them. On the other hand, it is preventing the downfall of 'Awn after all that he has done in Lebanon.

Al-Musawi noted that the French opposition parties have sent their deputies to stage sit-ins in solidarity with 'Awn and that the French Government has, as usual, sent its ships in a show of force to intimidate the Muslims and nationalists in Lebanon. He said: Whereas all our recent disasters have been caused by the United States, our disasters in past centuries and up to the present time have been caused by France and the French crusader mentality which is full of hatred.

Al-Musawi added: When the people who support falseness agree among themselves, we must ask ourselves and our partners in the Islamic and national front, who are supported by Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran, to translate this alliance into practical results and unify their ranks. This will put a final end to the Maronite system and all its facades, the last of which will not be the agent Michel 'Awn.

Al-Musawi Denies Hizballah Linked to Hostages

NC0412191089 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] In remarks to correspondents in Ba'labakk last night, Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, warned that political Maronism aims to establish a Maronite, concessional Lebanon. He stressed that Islamic and nationalist forces cannot turn a blind eye to the partition of Lebanon.

The leader of Islamic Amal added that the oppressed and wronged in Lebanon are fully capable of thwarting the scheme to establish a second Israel in the region and will, God willing, triumph in this endeavor.

Al-Musawi denied any link between Hizballah and the issue of foreign hostages in Lebanon. He declared: Hizballah supports the Islamic intifadah in Palestine.

Amal, Syrian Military Concentrations Noted

NC0212154989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] According to security reports, heavy concentrations of the Amal Movement's gunmen have been monitored in the areas of al-Awza'i and al-Janah since 1600 today. In the meantime, Syrian military concentrations have been noticed along the coastal line between Iqlim al-Kharrub and Khaldah.

According to information, Israeli gunboats have started to patrol the Lebanese coast. Israeli warplanes had earlier conducted reconnaissance sorties over the Mountain, al-Biqa' and the capital, drawing anti-aircraft fire from the Southern Suburb, 'Alayh, and Baysur.

In another development, the anti-aircraft fire, which was directed from the Southern Suburb at Lebanese Army helicopters that were flying over southern al-Matn, reached al-Hadath area, where a fire broke out in a house.

Israelis Review Syrian Deployments in Beirut

TA0212182189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The Voice of Lebanon, the Christian Lebanese radio station, reports that the Syrian Army has in the last few hours been rushing reinforcements on the coastal road, south and north of the Christian enclave. [passage omitted]

Israeli Army sources told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that there has been no real change in Syrian Army deployment in the Beirut area. The sources pointed to the fact that the report on Syrian Army reinforcements was broadcast by the Christian Lebanese radio.

Hizballah Increasing Attacks on SLA, Israelis

TA0312063889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] The Hizballah has increased its activities north of the security zone in recent weeks. Fourteen attempted attacks on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers have been recorded over 2 weeks. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Hizballah leaders recently settled several disputes between their members in the south and are currently concentrating activities in the area between Marj 'Uyun and Jazzin.

General Lahd, the SLA commander, yesterday warned Hizballah leaders that his cannons would shell camps and villages belonging to the Shiite organization if two Christian doctors kidnapped last week north of Marj 'Uyun are not released.

Israelis, SLA Clash With Fighters in South

Amal Group Carries Out Attack

NC0112174289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] The operations room of the Lebanese Resistance Brigades—Amal has issued the following statement:

In response to the malicious Zionist practices against our detained strugglers in the al-Khiyam prison and the martyrs who recently have fallen in this neo-Nazi detention camp, and on the basis of orders issued by the command of the movement's operations room, a group of the Lebanese Resistance Brigades—Amal from the unit of martyrs Murshid Nahhas and Salim Haydar carried out an attack using automatic weapons and rockets against a position manned by the Zionist enemy and his agents on al-Qantarah hill at 2130 on Thursday, 30 November 1989.

The attack left a number of enemy soldiers killed or wounded. A medium-caliber 12.7-mm machinegun emplacement also was destroyed. Subsequently, the enemy's heavy artillery shelled Qabirkha, in the Marj 'Uyun district, causing heavy damage to property. No casualties were reported.

SLA Soldier Killed 2 Dec

TA0212105889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] An SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldier was killed in the security zone this morning when an explosive charge went off. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the explosive charge was placed on a path used by patrols in the eastern sector, and the assailants hid in the vicinity waiting for the SLA contingent to pass by.

Amal Claims Attack on Patrol

NC0212173889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] The Amal Movement's operations room in the south issued the following communique at noon today:

In allegiance with the martyrs, in honor of their memory, in pursuance of their line, in retaliation for the killing of detainees in al-Khiyam, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the martyrdom of brothers Husayn Hattab and Khudur Jadid, and in accordance with the instructions from the Movement's command, one of the Movement's groups detonated a 250-kg [as heard] device as a joint Israeli-Lahd motorized patrol led by infantry men was passing along the al-'Ayshiyah-al-Jarmaq road

at 0900 today, Saturday, 2 December 1989. The blast left an M-113 vehicle out of commission and its crew members either dead or wounded. Three infantrymen were also killed in the explosion.

A short time later, ambulances and helicopters raced to the scene to transport the wounded and dead. The enemy directed concentrated shelling at the towns of Kafr Rumman, al-Nabatiyah, Habbush, and the outskirts of Jazzin from his positions in al-Suwayda' and (?Tuhrah). Two people were martyred and well over 15 others were wounded in the bombardment.

Israelis Resume Shelling

NC0312100489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Israeli occupation forces and agent Antoine Lahd's militia resumed shelling the town of al-Nabatiyah and the Kafr Rumman-Habbush-al-Nabatiyah triangle this morning. It has been reported that, in addition to causing heavy property damage, the shelling wounded citizen 'Ali Qubayh in al-Nabatiyah.

SLA Retaliates After Attack

NC0312125889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Two South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers were killed in a bomb explosion near the Bayt Yahun crossing in the western sector of the border area today.

Following the incident, the Voice of the South radio broadcast a statement by the SLA stressing that it will violently answer this attack.

According to sources of the so-called Islamic Resistance, SLA artillery shelled the towns of Tibnin and Bra'shit outside the security zone after the incident.

SLA Tanks Open Fire

TA0312163689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] tanks have been shelling large areas outside the security zone since early this afternoon. The shelling most likely comes in retaliation for the death of two SLA soldiers today by a large explosive charge. This was reported by the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] headquarters in the area to our correspondent Menahem Horowitz.

Several katyushas were fired at the Christian village of Marj 'Uyun this afternoon. There were no casualties.

Beirut police reported a short time ago that at least 22 people have been injured in the shelling so far.

Israeli Shelling Denounced

NC0312193389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Foreign Ministry Secretary General Salah Sutaytiyah has stated that on the instructions of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss Lebanon will submit an urgent and strongly worded complaint to the UN Security Council tomorrow to deter Israel from further acts of aggression in the south. Lebanon will reserve the right to call for a Security Council meeting if Israel continues its inhuman practices in the south.

Israeli enemy forces and Lahd militia units resumed their artillery shelling of al-Nabatiyah and its surrounding area this morning, injuring several people and inflicting much property damage. Al-Nabatiyah came under heavy shelling yesterday. The shelling left three people dead and a number of others wounded.

The artillery shelling of al-Nabatiyah resumed at 0500 today, and continued intermittently until after 0900. Shops and businesses in the town remained closed and the streets were deserted.

The shelling also extended to Kafr Rumman, Habbush, and the outskirts of 'Arab Salim. A woman from the Safa family in Habbush was injured. The shelling also destroyed a large number of houses and cars. Bilal Hallal and Usamah Hallal were wounded and taken to the al-Ra'i Hospital in Sidon. In an attempt to safeguard travelers, the various roads leading to al-Nabatiyah and the neighboring villages were closed to traffic, and comings and goings were prohibited.

Meanwhile, resistance fighters detonated an explosive charge at noon today near an enemy patrol at the Bayt Yahun crossing point, in the central sector, destroying an armored vehicle. Subsequently, the enemy artillery began directing concentrated artillery fire at Haddathah, 'Ayta al-Jabal, and the outskirts of Tibnin, hitting a large number of houses. The Irish UN contingent's post in Haddathah was also hit, destroying the checkpoint. The UN forces post on the outskirts of Tibnin was also damaged in the bombardment.

Artillery Attacks Leave 4 Dead

NC0412124189 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The Israeli occupation forces and their militia massacred people in al-Nabatiyah and Kafr Rumman less than 24 hours after shelling al-Nabatiyah city and its area. According to preliminary reports, 4 citizens were martyred and more than 16 others were wounded.

The Lebanese Foreign Ministry cabled its mission at the United Nations with instructions to lodge an urgent complaint with the Security Council against the recurring Israeli attacks against al-Nabatiyah.

Our correspondent in the area has informed us that the enemy's artillery in the overlooking hills surprised the

innocent civilians in al-Nabatiyah this morning when the enemy launched a violent artillery attack, which was made possible by dawn's light. Schools were closed and the citizens did not go to the popular Monday market in the city but stayed at home for fear of renewed shelling. A large number of citizens went outside the area. The enemy artillery resumed its bombardment of al-Nabatiyah at 0930, wounding 'Ali Ghandur, 'Ali Khumani, and Isma'il al-Tirani. Many cars were burned and some houses were damaged by the shelling, which reached the townships of Habbush and Kafr Rumman and the outskirts of 'Arab Salim and Lower Humin.

The enemy directed its artillery fire at Kafr Rumman township at 1100, hitting a group of citizens near the western entrance and resulting in the massacre of four citizens. They include 'Ayyad Nasir, Sharif Nur-al-Din, and Husayn Muhammad al-Hajj Hasan. [passage omitted]

Israelis Deny Shelling

TA0412123689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense forces] sources in south Lebanon have denied Lebanese radio reports that IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery cannons have been shelling the town of al-Nabatiyah and the surrounding villages. According to the IDF sources, the shelling is being perpetrated by Amal and Hizballah. This is reported by our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus notes that the Lebanese radios are reporting Israeli Air Force reconnaissance flights over al-Nabatiyah.

Hizballah Claims Attack

NC0412190189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Excerpts] In retaliation for an explosion that targeted a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol, the SLA shelled fundamentalist positions in Kafr Rumman and the vicinity of al-Nabatiyah this morning, killing 5 people and injuring 15 others. According to other reports, 8 people were killed and well over 40 others were injured.

Hizballah had declared its responsibility for the explosion, which took place near the crossing point in Bayt Yahun in the south. Two SLA soldiers were killed in the explosion. [passage omitted]

A source in the SLA has threatened to take stringent measures against the Amal Movement at the appropriate time unless the movement stops its operations against SLA positions and its shelling of villages in the border strip.

Rockets Land in Christian Town

TA0412172989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Several katyusha rockets were fired at the security strip in southern Lebanon this evening. Some of them landed in the Christian town of Marj 'Uyun. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, emphasizes that this is the 2d consecutive day in which the terrorists have singled out that region in the security zone for their shelling.

Resistance Vows To Retaliate

NC0512075889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has released the following statement: In retaliation for the bestial bombardment by the Israeli forces and agents—a bombardment that killed or injured a large number of civilian people in al-Nabatiyah and adjacent villages—the Islamic Resistance artillery bombarded areas deep into Israel. The artillery also pounded agents' positions in Marj 'Uyun. The Islamic Resistance has pledged to our struggling people in Jabal 'Amil that it will retaliate against the criminal aggressive bombardment of our areas. The statement also pledged to the departed imam of the nation, the great Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic nation Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, all martyrs, and detainees in the enemy jails, that it will continue the march until the cancerous tumor, Israel, is eliminated.

Israelis Continue Shelling

NC0512095289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The Israeli occupation forces escalate their aggressive attacks against the resisting south whenever signs of political dialogue loom on the horizon. For the fourth consecutive day, these forces have shelled the city of al-Nabatiyah and nearby villages. Four shells fell at approximately 0800 this morning, paralyzing traffic and leading to the closure of all official establishments, banks, and schools.

The enemy's forces in Tallat Bra'shit blew up a house near the UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon] center in the town of Bra'shit at 0700. The villages of Haddathah, 'Ayta al-Jabal, and Haris came under artillery fire from 0600 to 0630. According to preliminary reports, several people were injured. They include 'Ali Hijazi and his wife, who were moved to Jabal 'Amil Hospital.

We have been informed that the enemy and the agent's artillery resumed their violent shelling of al-Nabatiyah city with 105-mm tank and 120-mm rocket artillery and heavy bursts of sniper fire at approximately 0900. [passage omitted]

Israeli Air Force Raids Targets in South

All Planes Return 'Safely'

TA0512114689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Israel Air Force [IAF] planes attacked terrorist targets east of Sidon this afternoon. Our military affairs correspondent 'Amos Har'el reports:

IAF planes attacked terrorist targets situated east of Sidon this afternoon. The targets were hit, and all the Israeli planes returned safely to base. The targets that were bombed served as bases for the Ahmad Jibril and the Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Tal'at Ya'qub faction, terrorist organizations. It was the 16th attack by IAF aircraft against terrorist bases in Lebanon this year. Israeli planes twice bombed terrorist targets in the eastern sector, near Sultan Ya'aqov, less than 2 weeks ago.

It is interesting to note that Jibril's organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, has become a major target for Israeli air raids. The organization's bases and headquarters have been bombed seven times this year.

Now we must wait for reports from the various news agencies in Lebanon to find out how many casualties resulted from this afternoon's operation.

PFLP-GC Positions Hit

JN0512105589 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following: an al-Quds radio correspondent reports from southern Lebanon that American Zionist aircraft raided the offices of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp at 1150 today.

Our correspondent in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp adds that the enemy did not achieve its aims and no human or material losses were inflicted on the PFLP-GC ranks, while several human losses are reported among women and children.

The al-Quds correspondent emphasizes that there are several missiles with time-delayed fuses which PFLP-GC engineering units are trying to defuse. Our correspondent in 'Ayn al-Hulwah requested us to warn people against approaching the area until these missiles are detonated or removed.

It will be recalled that this is the fourth raid within a week in which the enemy is targeting PFLP-GC bases in the central al-Biqa', western al-Biqa', and southern Lebanon. God is with us; together along the path of liberating land and man.

PLF Office Raided

JN0512112889 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1106 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Brothers, I have just received the following: A correspondent of Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio along the path of liberating land and man, in Sidon, the capital of southern Lebanon, says American Zionist aircraft raided an office belonging to the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] in the Majdalyun area east of Sidon a short while ago. Losses are still unknown.

In a related development, the al-Quds correspondent in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp said the engineering units of the Popular front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP-GC] have managed to detonate the time-delayed missiles which the enemy dropped on the PFLP-GC offices in 'Ayn al-Hulwah this morning. Our kinfolk in 'Ayn al-Hulwah can now safely move in the area.

Birri Threatens To Shell Israeli Territory

NC0412155689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has threatened that his movement will retaliate against the shelling of the al-Nabatiyah area by shelling areas inside Israel. Speaking at a news conference in West Beirut today, Birri said: We have decided to retaliate against the shelling from now on by shelling Israeli territory.

Further on Birri's Remarks

NC0412173189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has said that the Israeli shelling of al-Nabatiyah in the past 3 days is an Israeli intervention and an open letter to all the countries of the world, the Arabs, and the unionists in Lebanon. It is the real support which 'Awn is relying upon in his partitionist policy. He warned that the Amal Movement will be forced to retaliate against the Israeli shelling by shelling deep into Israeli territory. He called for an immediate UN Security Council meeting to consider the Israeli massacre in al-Nabatiyah and implement Resolution 425 immediately.

He described the situation in the eastern area as cancerous and said it could destroy the Lebanese body. He maintained that procrastination will lead to Lebanon's partition and the perpetuation of the present situation. He stressed that what is needed is a resolution of this matter.

Birri called on the Lebanese people in the eastern and western areas to maintain solidarity and end the rebellion and partition. He warned that the disintegration of Lebanon will expose the area to wars among tribes and clans.

Birri was speaking at a news conference he held this afternoon.

National Front Calls for Overthrow of 'Awn

NC0412155089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Statement issued by the National Front following a meeting at Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri's office in Beirut on 4 December]

[Text] First: The National Front has considered the fateful circumstances through which the country is passing in light of the continued secessionist rebellion led by Michel 'Awn against the legitimate authorities. The front believes that Lebanon faces the peril of partition in the event there is acceptance of coexistence with the fait accompli imposed by 'Awn, who is hindering the functions of the legitimate authorities and usurping their institutions.

Vis-a-vis this peril, which signifies total catastrophe for the Lebanese people, the National Front requests that legitimate authorities, which enjoy considerable domestic, Arab, and international support, take all steps that are likely to decide matters and end the secessionist rebellion in the eastern area as swiftly as possible. In this way they will be able to forestall the secessionists who are counting on placing Lebanon on the path of partition by the force of actual fact. The front holds that any vacillation or delay over the option to take decisive action means that an opportunity will be given for this germ to grow inside the Lebanese body.

Second: The continued media festival that the secessionists are organizing is merely a desperate attempt to win over public opinion to their side after their stand, which is hostile to Lebanese interests, and their departure from constitutional legitimacy have been exposed. It does not at all reflect the true feelings of our people in the eastern area and of the vast majority of the Lebanese people.

Third: The Zionist aggression against the resisting south reflects the Israeli will which opposes a solution and supports the partition conspiracy, in a manner that is in agreement with some acts of foreign intervention that are designed to support the secessionists and obstruct the decisive action option. This exposes as false the claim of these foreign parties that they support and embrace the constitutionally legitimate authorities. The dissemination of these appeals to be patient and wait is a suspect and rejected action that serves the scheme to fragment Lebanon.

Fourth: The National Front exhorts all the sons of our people in all Lebanese areas to declare their will to thwart the partitionist plans and take decisive action to topple the secessionist clique which is led by 'Awn. For this reason, the front calls on all the Lebanese people to participate in the Day for Lebanon's Unity under the slogan: Yes to One Lebanon, Yes to Decisive Action, and Down with Partition, by observing a general strike in all Lebanese areas on Thursday 7 December 1989.

PSP Uncovers Plot To Assassinate Junblatt

NC0412184389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY has reported that the security organ of Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt has uncovered an attempt to assassinate Junblatt. The attempt was to have involved a boobytrapped car and was to have taken place as Junblatt's motorcade was returning to al-Mukhtarah from a condolence visit to 'Ayn 'Nub.

Citing Junblatt's security organ, the news agency said that Khudur Qulaylat, who owns a butcher's shop on al-Hamra Street, is the owner of the car. The car was stolen from outside Qulaylat's house on al-Tariq al-Jadidah approximately a year ago. It transpired that Kamal Abu-al-Hasan, a member of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, has been using this car since it was stolen. Abu-al-Hasan was arrested, and Junblatt and his aides later took him to Damascus and handed him over to the Syrian authorities. The news agency did not say when this attempt took place.

TISHRIN Comments on Soviet-U.S. Meeting

JN0512115589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] On the Soviet-U.S. summit meetings that will begin today, TISHRIN says: The choice of Malta as a venue for the summit was not a coincidence. This forgotten island occupies a strategic position in a strategic sea, the Mediterranean, which was and remains an arena for conflicts and a volatile region during times of crises and tense incidents. It also is exposed to various dangers that will reflect on world peace and security. The main reason for this is the hostile, imperialist, cancerous hotbed in the region Israel represents, and the continuous threat and danger Israel poses to the Mediterranean peoples and its littoral states, north, south, west, and east.

If the United States really is concerned about human rights and peoples' freedom, self-determination, and right to plan their future political approach, then the credibility of this principle and its realistic criterion would be evident through the objective, balanced, neutral stands that Washington adopts toward the situation in the region, particularly toward the continuous Zionist aggression against the Arab nation and the Palestinian Arab people. Only when Washington ceases to differentiate between the freedom of any people anywhere and the freedom of the Arab people can we say a comprehensive view of peace has begun to be initiated in the interest of peoples, their right to self-determination, and future options.

Views 'Important Results'

JN0512101089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Shipboard Summit: The Results and Reasons," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The shipboard summit meetings between Presidents Gorbachev and Bush off Malta concluded and had results described by the two presidents as positive and important for the march toward a future that would bring a durable peace and help bolster East-West relations.

The paper adds: The Lebanese situation and the Middle East conflict were among the important issues discussed during this summit. Gorbachev announced Washington and Moscow are showing solidarity with the Lebanese people in their agonizing ordeal.

Concluding its commentary, the paper comments on the important results of the summit which tackled current international issues of common interest in an attempt to reassure people about their destiny and future and also about the desired peace which must be based on fairness, right, and the desire for a free and decent life.

Further Reportage, Comment on Lebanese Crisis

AL-THAWRAH Cited

JN0512102089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon Has Accepted the Challenge," AL-THAWRAH editorial says: The Lebanese troubles still are disturbing and bitter nightmares. What remains, after the entire Arab nation, whether through the al-Ta'if document or through clear declared stands, has called for allowing Lebanese legitimacy, represented by President al-Hirawi and the national accord government, to exercise its constitutional powers, impose its sovereignty over Lebanon, and end 'Awn's rebellion? The entire world supports Lebanese legitimacy against this rebel. This rebel still is holding East Beirut hostage and challenging Lebanon, the Arabs, the world, the al-Ta'if document, and the Arab summit.

It is true Lebanon has accepted the challenge of 'Awn and his allies, Israel and the Iraqi regime, and translated this challenge into deeds when it elected al-Hirawi president of Lebanon and formed the national accord document. Lebanon is aware of the requirements of this challenge and its national essence. Lebanon also is ready to bear all the burdens of this big decision. However, it also is true that in the Lebanese case the time factor also is decisive. Perhaps 'Awn might wager on the time factor to consecrate his crime of partitioning Lebanon as a fait accompli. Lebanon as a whole also wagers on the time factor to end 'Awn's divisionist phenomenon, individuals and concepts. It is necessary to stress a nationalist position; namely, that no one can stop the march of a people and the trend of a homeland, no matter how big the conspiracy or how numerous the conspirators. All Lebanon is now in one trench, and the rebel and his allies are isolated in the other trench. They cannot stop the building of the new, free, and unified Lebanon. They cannot cancel its Arab affiliation or foil its wagering on the Arabs, because this is its future and destiny due to the fact this is the trend of all the sects, groups, and ideologies of the people. No party or individual can be an alternative to a cause. Lebanon is a cause, and it never will be Zionist under any circumstances.

Let us recall leader President al-Asad's cable to Dr al-Huss stressing Syria is determined to help the Lebanese brothers resist the conspiracy, and is ready to extend all that is required from it to help them foil this conspiracy.

Lebanese Patience Limited

JN0512121889 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus, 5 Dec (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms Awn's anomalous phenomenon in East Beirut is an abnormal phenomenon that seeks to destroy Lebanon; tear it apart; tamper with its security,

stability, and unity; and turn it into a host of weak cantons designed to serve as Israeli tools to carry out Israel's hostile schemes and realize its ambitions on Lebanese soil.

In its editorial today, the paper indicates 'Awn's partitionist stand and his destructive actions converge with Israel's scheme not only to partition Lebanon, but also to threaten the Arab security and strike at the intifadah being staged in the occupied Arab territories. AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: This 'Awn phenomenon and Israel's scheme also converge with Saddam Husayn's policy aimed to deal a blow to the Arab solution and kill any hopes for ending Lebanon's ordeal. The legitimate Lebanese authority will spare no efforts in working to end this abnormal phenomenon to save Lebanon and safeguard its unity. It is patiently and calmly tackling this situation. However, this patience cannot be without limits, as Lebanon only can survive under the legitimate authority which eventually will emerge victorious.

The paper says: Regardless of the attempts being made by the rebellious 'Awn, Israel, and Saddam to prolong the life of 'Awn's abnormal partitionist phenomenon, this phenomenon is doomed to failure, not only because it runs counter to Lebanon's history and existence, but also because this phenomenon has within itself the seeds of its own destruction.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says the legitimate Lebanese authority will not allow any phenomenon to undermine Lebanon's security and unity or that will lead Lebanon to the verge of political suicide. Hence, partition is not accepted, and its tools are rejected—national accord will reign supreme in Lebanon, putting an end to all other phenomena, AL-THAWRAH says.

'Political Solution' Emphasized

JN0512094089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Mutiny Cannot Survive," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Since the tripartite committee managed to consolidate the cease-fire to end the destructive war ignited by 'Awn at the request of the enemies of Lebanon and Arabism, and since the al-Ta'if document was endorsed, the legitimate authority has embarked on building a new republic, affirming its eagerness to serve and protect all citizens of the homeland. This authority's endeavors are motivated by eagerness to contribute toward the march of reconstruction.

AL-BA'TH adds: The legitimate authority's sound policies have won the support of the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people, as well as the support of the Arab brothers and world states. Only Iraq's butcher, who seeks to bring about further destruction in Lebanon and kill more Lebanese people, so far has failed to voice similar support. As for those who rebelled against the legitimate authority, they once again are attempting to tamper with the homeland's destiny and toy with the citizens' sympathies in a bid to secure elusive support that so far only has come from a minority of French deputies.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: Thus, the picture has become crystal clear. The mutiny cannot last forever. Victory only will be the lot of the national will embodied by the legitimate authority through its persistent efforts to rebuild the homeland.

Under the headline "The Yardstick for Loyalty to Lebanon," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The Lebanese brothers nowadays are unanimous on the need to bolster the legitimate authority and proceed with the march of national accord and political reforms, and consequently, with efforts to remove all obstacles standing in the way of attaining unity in the country. Besides, they also are eager to realize, without shedding new blood, the aspirations embedded within their bosoms for 14 years. President al-Hirawi and Dr al-Huss were unequivocally clear when they made statements emphasizing their eagerness to spare the Lebanese any further ordeals and give the political solution a chance.

TISHRIN adds: However, the problem which daily exacerbates the situation is the rejection by 'Awn and his clique of the political solution and their opposition to the Lebanese people's ambitions and aspirations for national unity, security, and stability. The rebellious general rejects any talk about national accord and political reforms. All this general wants is the resignation of all institutions of the legitimate authority. Such a thing would lead to Lebanon's partitioning, its fragmentation, and its removal from the world map.

The paper goes on to say: The Lebanese legitimate authority, in response to international endeavours, has expressed its readiness to give sufficient time to the opportunities for a political solution. However, these endeavors must focus on the rebellious party which is obstructing the attainment of a solution and threatens the triggering of a big explosion in Lebanon.

Concluding its editorial: According to this perspective, we can say safely the good offices currently being exerted must focus on removing the mutinous general and also on giving the Lebanese a chance to realize their unity, serve their interests, and consecrate co-existence in their country. This is the yardstick for loyalty to Lebanon and its people.

'Awn Removal 'Only Option'

JN0412152089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1235 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: As efforts to remove the barriers to a political settlement in Lebanon continue, and as the country's legal authorities show extreme patience to secure a bloodless and honorable settlement, 'Awn's clique pursues its attacks against political figures and remains as provocative as ever. It looks as if 'Awn and

his clique could not care less about these efforts. The receptiveness of Lebanon's legal authorities to external pleas to give a political solution a chance is being characterized by the deviationist clique as a retreat by the former from their fundamental duty to restore the country's unity.

It is evident the 'Awn clique is pressing ahead with its partitionist scheme, a scheme that is in direct conflict with the al-Ta'if agreement and the Lebanese people's consensus on the issues of reconciliation and a future society founded on justice, egalitarianism, and equal opportunity. Without a doubt, international efforts must focus on the rebellious party, especially since 'Awn is setting himself against the Lebanese consensus. What is 'Awn after? Obviously he is clamoring for dismantling of the legally-constituted authorities—the president, the government, and the House of Deputies. He is appointing himself spokesman for the entire spectrum of the Lebanese community. 'Awn is proposing nothing less than partition, disintegration, infighting, destruction, killings, and the end of the homeland's existence, institutions, and territorial integrity.

The Lebanese have been through 14 years of warfare, experiencing all manner of suffering and torment. Lebanon has taken the first step toward a real solution; the Lebanese have forged a popular consensus to bury sedition, consecrate co-existence, and implement the hoped-for reforms. However, the insurgent general proposes they go back to square one, in effect making a fait accompli of partition, which all the Lebanese people—Muslims and Christians alike—never will countenance. That much they have made plain by rallying around the al-Ta'if agreement and the march toward national reconciliation that was set in motion by the departed martyr Rene Mu'awwad and whose torch has been picked up by the incumbent President Ilyas al-Hirawi. If no right-minded Lebanese—whether government official or ordinary citizen—will stand for the homeland disppearing into thin air and the collapse of every legal institution in order to help the insubordinate general continue to implement Israel's partionist scheme, the logical conclusion is the only solution lies in 'Awn bowing out and vacating Ba'abda Palace for the constitutionally-elected president. This is 'Awn's one and only option. This was the the message conveyed by Lebanese Deputy Butrus Harb to French President Francois Mitterrand.

World powers are obliged to bring the necessary pressure to bear to secure the removal of the rebellious general if Lebanon is to be spared further bloodshed, especially given the fact 'Awn has used the school children of the eastern district as a barricade to shelter him. Besides, the international community has come out on the side of legitimacy and national reconciliation. It is now obvious to all Lebanon never will be able to to weather the crisis unless the eastern district is returned to the Lebanese fold and legal state authority is reasserted over the entire Lebanese territory. The legal establishment commands the resources needed to reassert its authority. The issue now is one of a nation versus an individual whose removal is the only option left to pursue.

Tripartite Committee Supports Legitimacy

JN0512084189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Lebanese Are Waiting the Emergence of Comprehensive Peace," AL-BA'TH says: The contents of yesterday's statement on the Lebanese crisis reveal the rebel 'Awn is the only obstacle before achieving Lebanese accord and the implementation of the Lebanese national document, and that the Lebanese legitimacy, represented by President al-Hirawi, the Chamber of Deputies, and the national accord government, is called upon to impose legitimacy over all Lebanon, because the Lebanese people's interests are above all narrow interests.

The paper wonders: Will Lebanon continue to be hostage to the stupidity of an officer who is rebelling against the homeland and legitimacy in it, or is it not now time to uproot his evil from Lebanon to make the Lebanese people confident they will emerge from the dark tunnel, and that the sun of peace will rise?

On the same subject, TISHRIN says: President al-Hirawi asked the Tripartite Committee leaders to resume their efforts and endeavors to eliminate the phenomenon of rebellion that is hampering the implementation of the national accord document, and the committee's response came quickly when, in its statement, it called on all international parties concerned with the situation in Lebanon to continue their strong support for the Lebanese legitimacy, and stressed what was contained in the Arab summit resolution in terms of determination to save Lebanon from its ordeal, end its sufferings, reinforce its legitimate institutions, and impose state sovereignty and actual control over all Lebanese territory.

This is a new achievement to be added to the ones that have been made by the march of national accord in Lebanon after Lebanese legitimacy, which has gained Lebanese and Arab support and international blessing, has restored its role that the conspiracy has sought for 15 years to undermine, sometimes through suspect initiatives, sometimes through suicidal plans, whether by insisting on continuing the fighting, or through attempts to entrench a sick divisionist situation. The importance of this achievement is it reconfirms 'Awn's isolation and the state of loss and worry he is experiencing after the peace offensive that is being led successfully by President al-Hirawi and the national accord government in allowing every opportunity for peace to impose itself before decisive action becomes the only option left for those who are concerned about Lebanon's unity and Arabism.

Prime Minister Emphasizes Economic Policies

JN0412103689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Meetings of the seminar on developing and improving the working methods in the public sector's economic, service, and production administrations began at noon today. It is organized by the General Federation of Trade Unions in cooperation with the Council of Ministers. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, a number of Ba'th Party Regional Command members, the prime minister's deputies for services and economic affairs, and a number of ministers attended the opening of the seminar. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi addressed the conferees. He stressed the importance of this meeting, organized by the General Federation of Trade Unions as one of its numerous initiatives asserting the role of the working class and the trade unions in enhancing the march of devlopment, building the ever-developing political, economic, and social system, deepening political and economic awareness, participating effectively in dealing with urgent matters, removing obstacles and hindrances, disposing of red tape and bureaucracy, and embodying the decisions of the party's congresses and the directives of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, Ba'th Party secretary general and president of the republic.

Al-Zu'bi said cooperation between the trade unions and the government has had an important effect on the endorsement of the production plans and their implementation programs, and on the adoption of measures conducive to improving production specifications, reducing its expenses, combating squandering, increasing production, and deepening the allegiance of the worker to his factory and institution.

Al-Zu'bi affirmed the important element in the production process is not presentation of problems and difficulties, but presentation of solutions that can eliminate the negative aspects and lead to cooperation among administration, technicians, and workers as one team in order to reach solutions, find better methods, and ensure discipline and good performance, especially during this stage which demands further integral team work in every establishment and sector for the sake of translating the slogan of self-reliance into a living reality.

Al-Zu'bi went on to say: In this meeting, it is important for me to present a realistic picture of the general situation in the economic field. During the past period, the government has endeavored to develop this field and implement the decisions of the Ba'th Party congresses, especially the decisions of the eighth regional congress. It also sought to implement the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad and follow up the objectives as drawn up by the government policy statement. The first objective of the government was giving priority to agriculture and agricultural investment and translating this into actual deeds that render agriculture the backbone of the national economy. The prime minister affirmed all energies and capabilities were mobilized to serve this field. Attention was given to providing the necessary requirements for agricultural production at the right time and according to the required amounts. The years 1988 and 1989 witnessed concentration on comprehensively providing these requirements. This demanded the early issuance of the annual production plan and a development of the methods of financing peasants and farmers with loans that can enable them to redouble their work and investment. This also demanded adjusting the prices of agricultural products, for the stagnant pricing policy constituted a big obstacle. The adjustment of prices began to increase the peasants' income and make the agricultural revenues a basis for returning man to his land, providing a free, dignified living in the rural areas, and providing the maximum level of social, economic stability.

Al-Zu'bi added: This was accompanied by timetabled programs to reclaim lands and build dams and water canal networks. It was necessary to face the occasional bad seasons resulting from rain shortages by including a good deal of land in the irrigation system.

Turning to industry, the prime minister said: We have stressed the public industrial sector needs to be studied, and that its difficulties need to be dealt with. The public sector—the pioneering sector—has undertaken the mission of industrialization. This giant, strong sector is considered the economy's safety valve which absorbs all shocks. Moreover, it is the power which protects our national economy from any international disturbances or fluctuations. We indeed have started to separately convene qualitative meetings for each establishment. Through these meetings, we dealt with their problems, eliminated the difficulties they are facing, and provided them with their necessary needs.

The prime minister highlighted the electricity situation, indicating electricity stations now are being powered by gas rather than fuel to reduce costs. He emphasized the production of the steam and gas generating stations meets the needs of Syria. However, the government's resort to limited rationalization of production was meant to complete the maintenance of these stations and not to use the maximum power in order to reduce economic costs. He affirmed electricity projects which will be implemented will enable Syria to export electricity in 1993.

The prime minister talked about the survey, prospection, discovery, and production works in the new oil fields. He affirmed the new fields and wells will reinforce Syria's bright future, and that the quantities of gas discovered so far make Syria one of the leading countries in gas investment and one of the oil countries of the future. We are very optimistic in this regard, he said.

Al-Zu'bi concluded: The developed economic policy in the fields of agriculture, industry, and both oil and gas investment has reflected on the general economic situation. There have been a number of big, positive results which have their positive indications. In 1988 and 1989, a big, important financial parity was achieved. Parity also was achieved in the balance of payments; the exports outweighed the imports. This is a large economic indicator. He added these two indicators clearly demonstrate a general financial and ecomomic parity. More importantly, they affirmed Syria has attained self-reliance. [passage omitted]

Vice President Receives Mufti of Bulgaria

JN0412204689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus—Vice President Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah received at 1230 today Dr Nedyo Genchev, mufti of the People's Republic of Bulgaria [title as heard], and his delegation. Attending the meeting were His Eminence Shaykh Ahmad Kiftaru, the grand mufti of the Republic, and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus. The talk centered on bilateral friendly ties.

Afghanistan

Keshtmand Arrives in Kabul After Moscow Visit

LD0412161689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Republic of Afghanistan Council of Ministers, returned home today after a health checkup and a working visit to the USSR.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand was received at Kabul International Airport by Mir Saheb Karwal, member of the Politburo and secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee; Mahmud Barialay, first deputy foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan; and Deputy Prime Ministers Sayyed Amanuddin 'Amin, Sarwar Mangal, Mahbabullah Koshani, Muhammad Hakim, and His Excellency B. Pastukhov, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the USSR in Kabul.

Returns After 'Medical Checkup'

BK0412154689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec 4 (AFP)—Afghan Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand returned here Monday [4 December] more than a month after flying to the Soviet Union for a medical checkup, a government spokesman said. The premier's return appeared to have scotched rumours that he would not return soon and had been sent to the Soviet Union prior to being sacked.

Mr. Keshtmand arrived in the Afghan capital from Moscow where he had gone October 30 for a medical checkup, the spokesman said, without elaborating. A United Nations official said he had seen Mr. Keshtmand driving past in his official car early Monday. His return Monday was according to schedule, the spokesman said.

Mr. Keshtmand, a member of President Najibullah's Parcham faction of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, was replaced in May 1988 as premier by Muhammad Hasan Sharq. He was recalled four days after the Soviet troop withdrawal was completed February 15.

In a speech before leaving Kabul, Mr. Keshtmand said Hazara tribes, of which he is a member, had suffered hardships under successive regimes here and were deprived of national and human rights.

Najibullah, Keshtmand Greet V.P. Singh's Election

LD0412074389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 3, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA), and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the RA have sent a congratulatory message to New Delhi, addressed to Vishwanath Pratap Sing on the occasion of his election as prime minister of the Republic of India today.

The message in part read: On behalf of the Government and people of the RA, I want to extend our best and cordial congratulations to you as prime minister of India and through you to the government and people of the Republic of India on the occasion.

The traditional friendship existing between the RA and India which have deep historical and cultural roots and has successfully came out from the test of time both countries have established their relations on the basis of principles of peaceful co-existence. Good neighbourliness and non-alignment and expanded them in the interest of peace in the region and in the world, the message says.

The sound stand taken by the friendly India vis-a-vis the issues around Afghanistan is the vivid manifestation of the interest of the great country of India in relation to the destiny of Afghanistan and people of the Republic of Afghanistan, the message stresses.

We firmly believe in that the economic, scientific and technical assistance between the two countries will be further strengthened during your office as prime minister of India. The Government of India under your leadership through the use of its influence as an important political balance will play a positive and active role in the ensurance of regional as well as world peace and security specially peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan, the message emphasizes.

We are confident that as a result of your efforts the friendly people of India will achieve further successes in the fields of socio-economic growth and social welfare and prosperity.

By the virtue of time we wish your health and successes and prosperity for the people of the Republic of India, the message concludes.

State Security Ministry on Aborted 'Conspiracy'

LD0412155289 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The Ministry of State Security discovered and neutralized an antistate conspiracy designed by a secret network of Golboddin to disrupt the peaceful life of the people, and captured its perpetrators. The band's activity was organized among the ranks of the armed forces and in government offices in order to cause confusion in populated areas of the city, assassinate political and social personalities, undermine the ranks of the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, and so on.

An explosion next to the Kabul polytechnic school and the Indian Embassy in which many of our compatriots were bathed in blood was the work of this subversive band, and by a timely, lawful act, the continuation of their crimes was prevented.

So far 100 perpetraters of the conspiracy have been captured and the investigation continues. The perpetrators of the criminal acts will be tried by the National Security Court and will be sentenced in line with the provisions of the law. Therefore, those who were involved in the conspiracy and who had been identified are asked to go to security organs as soon as possible and report on the circumstances of the matter. These people will be pardoned in line with Article 29 of the Law of Crimes Against Internal and External Security of the Republic of Afghanistan; otherwise, security forces will initiate actions to arrest them.

The Ministry of State Security of the Republic of Afghanistan thanks the honorable people who cooperated with the security forces with high patriotic feelings to abort the conspiracy. A detailed report of the network will be published by the media.

Mujahidin Commander Wounded by Unknown Gunmen

BK0112134989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1330 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Dec 1 (AFP)—An influential Afghan mujahidin commander, Mullah Malang, narrowly escaped an assassination attempt near here when some unknown gunmen opened fire on his vehicle, resistance sources said Friday [1 December].

Mullah Malang, 33, who belongs to the fundamentalist Hezb-e-Eslami faction led by Yunis Khalis, received a bullet wound in one leg in the attack, which occurred late Wednesday near this southwestern city bordering the Afghan province of Qandahar.

The guerrilla chief, whose influence extends over several provinces bordering Pakistan and Iran among the rebels fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul regime, was admitted to a hospital run by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

An assistant of Mullah Malang here said unknown assailants attacked his jeep near his house and riddled it with more than 200 bullets, leaving the vehicle difficult to recognize. The jeep hit a wall of the house but the commander managed to escape, he said.

3 Mujahidin Commanders Killed Near Jalalabad

BK0412042189 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 4 Dec 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Finally, to Afghanistan where three guerrilla commanders have been killed in separate incidents near the eastern city of Jalalabad. Two of them belonged to the grouping led by Yunis Khalis. The other was with Golbuddin Hekmatyar's organization. Lyce Ducet reporting from Islamabad says it is being seen as a big setback for guerrilla operations in the area.

[Begin Ducet recording] The guerrillas recently stepped up their operations around the eastern city of Jalalabad. It is not on the scale of their major frontal assault earlier this year, but small groups of mujahidin have been trying to seize government posts around Jalalabad from different directions—part of the strategy to maintain pressure on strategic government-controlled areas throughout Afghanistan. They have intermittently cut the main supply road from Kabul, the capital, about 100 miles to the west. The guerrillas also say they have captured posts to the east and west of Jalalabad. But some observers believe the mujahidin may also have become more exposed to retaliation by launching separate small-scale operations close to major government targets.

On Saturday, the resistance lost three significant commanders in separate incidents in areas close to Jalalabad. The reports say two died in fighting; a third stepped on a land mine. It is being seen as a big setback to guerrilla operations in this region next to the Pakistan border. These commanders are said to have played leading roles in major battles earlier this year in which guerrilla forces seized government-held areas. But guerrilla sources have also reported some advances over the last few days, including the reported killing of a senior Afghan Army officer and the shooting down of an aircraft over Jalalabad. [end recording]

Army General Killed; Transport Plane Downed

BK0512011589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have killed a Kabul regime general in an artillery attack on Army Corps Headquarters in Jalalabad. According to the MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN, the Afghan Interim Government news agency, the name of the dead general is Brigadier General Ghulam Haydar; he is the third Kabul regime general to be killed by the mujahidin during past month.

On Sunday [3 December], the mujahidin also shot down a Kabul regime transport plane that was landing at Khowst airport.

Mujahidin Repulse Armed Forces' Attack Near Kabul

BK0312153189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] According to a report from Afghanistan, after 5 days of fierce fighting at a place 30 km southeast of Kabul, the mujahidin have repulsed attacks by the Kabul regime forces. The objective of the attack was to recapture two localities of strategic importance, (Pasvi) and (Alagai). MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], the news agency of the Afghan interim government, reported heavy loss of life and materiel. The mujahidin damaged a tank and destroyed three armored cars.

* Rebels Reject Hekmatyar Statement on U.S. Help

90OI0053A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
21 Nov 89 p 20

[Text] Islamabad, Pakistan—Central News Unit—Most of the groups of the Afghan mujahidin seven-party alliance expressed vigorous opposition to Golbuddin Hekmatyar's recent proposal that superpower military assistance to both sides in the conflict be cut.

Following the recent interview with Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-e Islami-ye Afghanistan, in which he discussed the idea that cutting military aid and the shipment of military arms to this nation will solve this nations's problems, the newspaper JANG quoted Mojaddedi, secretary-general of the Afghan National Liberation Front, as having said that Hezb-e Islami has stockpiled most of the weapons shipped to the mujahidin.

He added: Hekmatyar's recent proposal was made because he does not need weapons shipments. Mojaddedi regarded Hekmatyar's recent statements as contrary to the aims of the Afghan mujahidin and said: These statements will do great damage to the mujahidin.

Statements by the Kabul regime's president in Islamabad, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY:

The Kabul regime's president, announcing his willingness to hold multi-lateral talks with Pakistan, said that Benazir Bhutto must choose between war and peace.

The newspaper JANG, writing about this matter yesterday (Monday), said Najibullah also said, in a meeting with Pakistani correspondents in Kabul last Thursday, that since the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, the governments of Pakistan and America and one Arab nation have violated the Geneva accords on numerous occasions; by interfering in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan they have chosen a hostile path against it. Najibullah then accused Benazir Bhutto of not having a definite policy regarding Afghanistan.

In answer to a question concerning the way to solve the Afghan problem, the Kabul regime's president said: The powers who have supported military solutions are now supporting political methods.

Rebel Leader Asks USSR To End Support to Kabul

BK0212152789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1400 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, the Afghan Interim Government's prime minister, says that his government is ready to establish goodneighborly relations with the Soviet Union provided it withdraws its support to the puppet government in Kabul. Addressing a news conference near Peshawar today, he said such realistic action by both sides will greatly help to ensure regional and global peace and stability. He thanked Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and other peace loving countries for supporting the just struggle of the mujahidin.

India

President Swears in New Council of Ministers

BK0512124589 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] The Union Council of Ministers headed by Mr Viswanath Pratap Singh has been expanded. Fifteen new cabinet ministers and two ministers of state have been inducted. At a glittering ceremony in the Ashok Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House], the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers this evening. The new cabinet ministers are:

Professor Madhu Dandavate, Mr George Fernandes, Mr Ajit Singh, Mr Sharad Yadav, Mr Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, Mr Arun Nehru, Mr Arif Mohammad Khan, Mr Ram Vilas Paswan, Mr Nilamani Rautray, Mr I.K. Gujral, Mr M.S. Gurupadaswamy, Mr P. Upendra, Mr K.P. Unni Krishnan, Mr Dinesh Goswami, and Mr Murasoli Maran.

The ministers of state who took the oath today are: Mrs Menaka Gandhi and Mr Mannubhai Kotaria.

AIR's [All India Radio] correspondent says all the five constituents of the National Front have been given representation in the Council of Ministers. Eleven new cabinet ministers who took the oath today are from the Janata Dal and one each from the Telugu Desam, Congress-S, AGP [Asom Gana Parishad] and DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham].

With today's swearing-in, the strength of the National Front government at the Center has gone up to 19, including the prime minister and the deputy prime minister.

Among those present at the 40-minute ceremony were the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr Viswanath Pratap Singh; the deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal; and other high dignitaries.

Ershad, Bhutto Congratulate New Prime Minister

BK0212130289 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Several national and international leaders have felicitated Mr Viswanath Pratap Singh on becoming the prime minister of the country. They include Goa Chief Minister Mr Pratap Singh Rane; the Bangladesh president, General Ershad; and the Pakistan prime minister, Mrs Benazir Bhutto.

Our Kathmandu correspondent reports that the swearing-in of Mr V.P. Singh as prime minister has raised expectation among the Nepalese people and the Indian community in Nepal that the stalemate in New Delhi-Kathmandu relationship might be resolved soon.

Election Commission: 9th Lok Sabha 'Constituted'

BK0212162989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] The Ninth Lok Sabha has been constituted. A notification to this effect was issued by the Election Commission in New Delhi today. It contains the names of the newly-elected members in last week's elections.

The result of one constituency, Pratapgarh, in Uttar Pradesh has not been declared so far.

Center Warned Against Imposing President's Rule

BK0412161389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh [State] Congress-I president, Mr Mohammad Shafi Qureshi, today cautioned the Center against imposing governor's rule in the state as demanded by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and said such a step was fraught with dangerous consequences.

In a statement, Mr Qureshi said the Jammu and Kashmir government was a duly elected one and it should be allowed to run its full term and its dislodging would give fillip to anti-national elements and terrorists. Mr Qureshi reiterated that the Congress-I would continue to extend its full support to the Farooq Abdullah Government [of the National Conference] and there was no question of its pulling out of the coalition.

Akali Dal Faction Chief Opposes Punjab Election

BK0512033089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] The Akali Dal-Peruman [faction within Akali Dal] has opposed the Punjab governor's proposal to hold immediate assembly elections in the state. Addressing a press conference in Bhatinda yesterday, the president of the party, Mahant Seva Das Singh, said the elections in the present situation will further complicate the Punjab problem as secular and democratic forces are not in a position to fight the election in the state. He said assembly elections should be held after restoration of normalcy in the state.

The former Punjab chief minister and Akali Dal leader, Mr Prakash Singh Badal, has urged the union government to hold a judicial inquiry into what he alleged the atrocities committed on the people of the state in the recent past. He was talking to newsmen in Amritsar after visiting the Golden Temple.

Pakistani Report on Siachen Glacier Action Denied

BK0412150189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] An official spokesman today denied reports appearing in a section of the Pakistani press about the action of the Pakistan Army in the Siachen area. He said the news item is totally baseless and malicious. He categorically stated that no such action as claimed in the newspaper report has taken place in the Siachen area, nor there has been any Indian casualties.

Proposals for Trade Plans With USSR Finalized

BK2411155889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] India's trade with the Soviet Union is set to reach a record level of 8,800 crore rupees next year. The exports from India to the Soviet Union are projected to increase to 5,300 crore rupees, while imports from the Soviet Union to 3,500 crores. The proposals for the next year's trade plan were finalized in New Delhi today.

Trade between the two countries is expected to reach a level of 7,000 crore rupees during the current year.

Iran

AL-SHIRA' on Contacts With U.S. in Gulf States

NC0412163589 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 27 Nov 89 p 7

[Text] U.S.-Iranian exchanges have been revived through direct negotiations conducted secretly by representatives of the two sides.

According to the available information, these negotiations are taking place between Washington's ambassadors in two Gulf countries and Iranian diplomats who visited the capitals of these two countries for that purpose.

The same reports say that the negotiations have made considerable progress toward concluding a deal containing the following elements:

—The foreign hostages held in Lebanon are to be released.

—The issue of Iran's assets frozen in the United States is to be settled.

—Washington is to supply Tehran with spare parts for the U.S. weapons and planes which Iran obtained during the shah's era. This is to take place indirectly via arms dealers who have connections with the Central Intelligence Agency.

It is to be noted that the aforementioned U.S. ambassadors were assigned to their present posts immediately after the death of Imam Khomeyni.

Foreign Minister Reiterates Support for Syria

LD0412213289 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus, Dec. 4, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a message handed to his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' Monday reiterated Iran's support for Syria in the face of "aggressions of global arrogance, Zionism and their regional lackeys."

The message submitted to al-Shar' by Iranian Ambassador Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, said the Islamic Republic was prepared to do "all within its power" to counter plots hatched by enemies of the two countries.

It said, global arrogance's plots which this time have appeared in the shape of "Michel 'Awn's ruffianism" and the overt and covert intervention in Lebanon of Israel, Iraq and France, has made the Islamic Republic to voice support and solidarity with "brotherly Syria."

* Mohtashemi Rejects All Relations With U.S.

90OI0055A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Nov 89 p 3

[Text] At a gathering of students of the College of Social Sciences at 'Allamah Tabataba'i University, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi rejected the establishment of any kind of relations with America, and said relations between America and Iran will never be established. America is an imperialist, expansionist, and dominion-seeking regime, and its nature can never be changed. He also said: In view of the Freedom Movement's record of relations with America, this mini-group is under no circumstances qualified to have an official presence in Iran.

The speaker at this week's political analysis meeting at 'Allamah Tabataba'i University, held by the Islamic Society of this college, was Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi.

During a talk titled "A Look at the Problems of Lebanon," he discussed the domestic wars of the mid-70s in this nation. He said: Only the Islamic Resistance forces and the Hizballah of Lebanon are in the front lines of confrontation with Israel, and the forces of the other parties and groups of Lebanon are positioned as police units in the cities and villages.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi added: In their calculations, the Westerners did not anticipate the stability in the Islamic society after the death of his holiness the imam. They expected disorder and rebellion in the country and the fall of the Islamic Republic of Iran's government. On this basis they imagined that after the fall of the Islamic Republic of Iran the problem of the Muslims of Lebanon would also subside, and they therefore fomented discord between the Amal Movement and the Hezbollah.

He said: The Westerners had foolish ideas about the period after the imam, but with the formation of the system of leadership, the designation of the leader, and the election of the president, the manipulations devised by the West were foiled. He said: The Republic of Iran's post-imam strategy in Lebanon to support the Muslims and destroy Israel has not changed.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi said the purpose of his recent trip to Lebanon was to give intellectual assistance to the forces fighting the Phalangists and Israel and to assure Muslims of Iran's support; he characterized the trip as successful.

Elsewhere in his talk, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi said: The government of Salim al-Huss cannot resolve the problems in its path, and as Rene Mu'awwad is a weak man and controls the Maronite Christian rulers, the conflicts in Lebanon will continue.

America and the West do not wish to solve the hostage problem so they can use it as a pretext for war against the Muslims of Lebanon and Iran.

The Lebanese, with their country under occupation by multi-national forces and suffering from numerous acts of oppression and aggression at their hands, resorted to hostage-taking.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi, continuing his answers to the students' questions, added: On the basis of available documents and evidence concerning the Freedom Movement's record of relations with America, this mini-group is under no circumstances qualified to have an official political organization in Iran.

KAYHAN Praises Gorbachev Attitude on Religion

LD0312114489 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—An Iranian daily Sunday welcomed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's change of attitude towards religion. "By tapping the doors of religion the Soviet leader is making intelligent moves to ease the heavy burden of Moscow's policymaking establishment," said 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial.

Referring to Gorbachev's speech before his papal visit that the Soviets had treated religion in a "simplistic manner", the English daily said, "the chronic problems of communist regimes is the result of a whole set of policies that went wrong." The daily cites anti-religion measures as one of these problems and stressed that none of the communist countries succeeded in building " a truly non-religious society".

Turning to Karl Marx's notion of religion describing it as the opium of the masses, the daily said that the Soviet leader was officially rejecting Marx's views in this regard. "Gorbachev is trying to meet the increasing challenges to his reform policies with the aid of religion," said the daily.

The editorial said that the present changes in the East Bloc was in fact "a blessing in disguise". "Had the present developments not occured the deepening anger and disenchantment would have erupted to take the form of popular revolts," stressed the daily.

Libyan Minister Concludes Visit, Departs 1 Dec

LD0212071189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Mr Fathi Ibn-Shatwan, the minister of strategic industries of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who was visiting Tehran at the head of an economic delegation, left Tehran this morning. Mr Nejad Hoseyniyan, the minister of heavy industries, was present at the departure ceremonies.

The Libyan minister of strategic industries, in an exclusive interview with our correspondent, said that Iranian industries are at an advanced level. He said: The joint commission has forecast expanded areas in trade exchanges. On the basis of bilateral agreements, the volume of trade exchanges has been determined to reach $100 million.

Referring to the expansion of the Iranian-Libyan relations on the basis of industrial development, he mentioned that in the agreements reached, emphasis has been placed on strategic industries and added: There have been repeated contacts between the officials of the two countries of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and close cooperation has been forecast in the production of buses and heavy vehicles; both sides have announced their agreement for industrial cooperation and the exchange of technical information.

'Zolfiqar-5' Naval Maneuvers To Begin 9 Dec

LD0212141389 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Bushehr, Hormozgan Province, Dec. 2, IRNA—A joint maneuver of the Islamic Republic's Naval Forces and the Islamic Republic's Guard Corps (IRGC), codenamed 'Zolfiqar-5' will be launched in the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea waters from December 9-16, Navy Commander Rear-Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani announced here Saturday.

Admiral Shamkhani arrived here Saturday morning to inspect the combat readiness of the Navy personnel of the Second Zone in this southern province at the Persian Gulf.

Navy Commander Views Plan To Increase Capability

LD0312095489 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Bushehr, Dec. 3, IRNA—Navy Commander Rear-Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani said here Saturday that Iraq's refusal to implement the Resolution 598 was within the framework of the U.S. policies and a pretext to justify presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf.

Shamkhani currently here inspecting the Second Naval Zone in this southern province added in an interview with IRNA that unjustifiable presence of superpowers in the Persian Gulf had only aggravated tension and instability in the region.

He stated that Iran would utilise domestic resources and foreign technology to aquire the desired defensive power during the first five-year development plan and other long term plans.

As for navigation of ships in the Persian Gulf, he said that Iran's policy remained unchanged and that ships could move along the waterway freely.

Notes UN Resolution, Gulf Security

LD0412185689 Tehran IRNA in English 1721 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Ahvaz, Dec. 4, IRNA—The Islamic Republic sees no difficulty for enforcement of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, remarked Navy Commander Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani, but 'it is the regime in Iraq which continues to procrastinate its implementation.'

At the second seminar on 'covenant with the imam and allegiance to the leadership,' the rear admiral said Ba'thist Baghdad has shown and still shows scant regard for international regulations, and intends to continue its occupation of parts of Iranian soil. 'Nevertheless we will frustrate the aggressor as before and will never allow a false sense of tranquility to prevail over us,' he made it clear.

Meanwhile, the afternoon daily 'ETTELA'AT' carried an exclusive interview today with the new Navy chief who during the imposed war had served with distinction as a senior IRGC ground commander.

The paper quoted Shamkhani as saying that the country's naval power has greatly improved, following several changes in the Navy, both in manpower and equipment, after Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 in July 1988. He said, part of the plans is to purchase equipment and technology from abroad, which he considered 'essential for a powerful navy.'

'Zolfiqar-5' sea games are to start in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman as of December 9 and will continue for a week, announced the rear-admiral, noting that 'these are the first joint maneuvers to be staged by IRGC marine forces and the traditional Navy.'

On the provocative presence in the Persian Gulf of NATO naval units, whose intrusion has provided tacit support to the Iraqi aggressor, he said, there has not been any major change in the composition of American and West European fleets since the ceasefire.

'The tension-charged presence of these units is surely an insult to states on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf, and implies they are not mature enough to safeguard their own security,' he said.

Rear Admiral Shamkhani demanded the 'immediate withdrawal' of all foreign military forces from the Persian Gulf waters. The pull-out of NATO forces will undoubtedly strengthen regional security, he stated reiterating that the Navy will powerfully defend the Islamic Republic's coastal waters. 'We are the paramount power guarding the entrance to the Persian Gulf,' he noted 'but we will not use our power for disturbing the tranquility of the region.'

IRGC Commander Reza'i Leaves for DPRK

LD0212171689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] Commander Reza'i left for Pyongyang today to attend the first joint session of the defense committee of Iran and North Korea. Before his departure, in an interview with our correspondent, the IRGC commander said:

[Begin Reza'i recording] Considering the defense cooperation between Iran and the DPRK during the first 10 years of the revolution, the need to expand defense cooperation has been placed on Iran's agenda. Therefore, the aim of the delegation accompanying me on this trip is to expand defense cooperation between Iran and DPRK. [end recording]

Editorial on Rumors of IRGC, Armed Forces Merger

NC0112212289 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 Nov 89 pp 1, 12

[Akbar Nabavi editorial: "The Armed Forces—the Arms of the Revolution"]

[Excerpts] 1. The inauspicious tune of the dissolution of one of the two military organizations, the Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, which reverberated after the acceptance of Resolution 598 and instilled an extensive wave of almost nervewracking tension in them, had no other motive except the complete dismemberment of the Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC].

The circumstances that would unintentionally bring the Islamic revolution face to face with a serious danger and give tangible form to these ideas by this diabolical scheme would have paved the way for a third "Qadisiyah" [battle fought between Arabs and Persians].

2. It cannot be denied that the combined role of the IRGC and the Armed Forces was able to repel the wave of the enemy's destructive aggression; this combined role should never be questioned in the war period or its aftermath. In fact, it is of special importance in light of the particular set of circumstances pertaining to the Islamic revolution and the Islamic homeland. [passage omitted].

As the leader of the Islamic revolution and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces pointed out yesterday, the national duty, as well as spheres of operations, of the IRGC and the Armed Forces vary, regardless of their complementary role. Any questions insinuating that either of them is superfluous would be meaningless. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Khomeyni Discusses Contribution of Women

LD0512051289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Excerpts] On the anniversary of the joyous birth of holy Zaynab, may God's peace be upon her, and Nurses' Day, a group of the families of martyrs, those missing in action, prisoners of war, and also the basiji sisters of the township of Varamin, met this morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, in Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran. In this meeting, which began with the singing of a song and the introduction of those present, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, expressed congratulations on the occasion of the happy anniversary of the birthday of the holy Zaynab, may God's peace be upon her, and talked about the great and extensive role of women of early Islam in their offerings of assistance to the prophet of Islam and the combatants. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni added that we also, today witness scenes of early Islam in terms of the kinds of sacrifices that some of the sisters are making; they are standing like mountains and will never give up the principles of the revolution. We should all try to preserve these principles. Of course, we all know that people suffering hardships and are subject to pressures, but does not everyone know that people will tolerate all this hardship for the sake of God? Referring to Nurses' Day, he said: The dear nurses should adopt a kind and caring approach toward patients and I must thank all the nurses, particularly those who took care of his eminence the imam, night and day. [video shows group of veiled women in Hoseyniyeh-ye Jamaran with camera spanning from the women sitting on the ground to Ahmad Khomeyni addressing them on a platform behind a microphone]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Chairs 29 Nov Cabinet Meeting

LD0212063189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] The cabinet held session yesterday [29 Nov] evening under the chairmanship of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In this session, the plan to provide more facilities for the producers of non-oil exports was discussed and the necessary decisions about the review of export goods and their evaluation were made. It was decided that the plan should be referred to a commission composed of economic and industries ministers for completion, and that it should encompass more export goods.

The meeting confirmed the need for state punishment measures and stressed the government's supervision of these measures. It was decided that necessary amendments in state punishment regulations should be made with the supervision of the cabinet minister regarding support for top management and various branches, on the one hand; and the decisive handling of the cases with the need for prosecution to safeguard the system's interests, on the other hand.

Majles Official Interviewed on Ministries Merger

NC0212090689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Interview with Gharibani, head of the Majles committee on recruitment and administrative affairs, by correspondent Ahmazadeh; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ahmazadeh] The decision by the the Majles committee on recruitment and administrative affairs to merge some ministries and organizations is being debated. I asked Mr Gharibani, the head of this committee, to give some details about the objective behind this decision.

[Gharibani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The outcome of such a merger, or of similar plans and bills, will be to eliminate duplication in various ministries. This will also dispense with superfluous installations which have unfortunately tied the hands and feet of various organizations. We shall endeavor, God willing, to merge various organizations working toward the same end into one and to reduce bureaucracy to a minimum.

We will provide the people and executive organizations with the necessary training as people do not know to whom they should speak when they enter a department. They do not know which section is responsible for what issues. This training is necessary in executive organizations for the directors as well as other employees, and for the people who wish to refer their problems to the executive organizations.

God willing, under this plan, efforts will be made to appoint a directorial staff on the basis of experience and commitment and of certain regulations. We hope that the discrimination we see in executive organizations will, God willing, be eliminated.

I request interested persons who have studied this problem to submit their findings to the committee for recruitment and administrative affairs.

[Ahmadzadeh] Mr Gharibani, have you identified which organizations and ministries are to be merged?

[Gharibani] We have not yet determined which ministries are to be merged as we still have to put these organizations into various categories. Once we have more data on the subject, we may decide to merge the Industries Ministry with the Mines Ministry, but operations are closely related in some areas, and a merger may not be feasible. If we wish to pay more attention to mines—henceforth the Islamic Republic of Iran, God willing, will be paying more attention to mines—we should study these issues more intensively.

[Ahmadzadeh] Thank you very much.

PTT Minister Comments on Ministry's Future Plans

NC0112141989 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Nov 89 p 4

[Text] In order better to serve its customers, the Ministry of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone [PTT] is to set up nine automated postal centers, using the experience of experts in Iran and abroad, by the end of the 5-year plan. Also, it plans to increase its capacity to handle pieces of mail from 300 million to 1 billion.

This was announced in an interview granted to IRNA by Eng Gharazi, PTT minister, who is in Washington to attend the 20th congress of the World Postal Union. The minister added: Iran's participation in this congress as a longstanding member is an independent act.

He said: We have good postal relations with the majority of countries and we operate on the basis of international regulations. We hope that during this congress we will make use of the positive experiences of other countries to the benefit of our people.

Regarding Iran's request for the expulsion of Israel from this world forum, Mr Gharazi said: Our efforts during the past congress, which was held in Hamburg 5 years ago, led to the expulsion of South Africa from the World Postal Union. Following our previous request, we are also continuing our efforts concerning Israel, and by persuading other countries of the racism the Jews are imposing in the occupied territories, we hope to receive their positive votes for our proposal.

In answer to another question put to him by the IRNA correspondent in Washington, the PTT minister said: We have offered three specific proposals on customer satisfaction, eliminating parallel postal services, and finally, on postal management which, God willing, will be followed up.

He also listed the expansion of money transfers, facsimile, telefax, and express post services, as well as a 50 percent increase in the personnel of the postal company, as being some of the projects envisaged in the 5-year plan.

Mr Gharazi then said the amount of investment in postal and telecommunications affairs during the country's 5-year plan will be 100 billion tumans, and added: With the programs that have been compiled, in addition to offering satisfactory services to the people, the government will also be helped by payments of taxes and credit interest. In this program, sufficient attention has been paid to production too.

Mr Gharazi added: Students graduating from computer and telecommunication courses abroad should get in touch with our ministry to offer their services.

In answer to a question on whether American influence in the congress leads to confusion over issues proposed, the minister said: Of course, the influence of certain countries can lead to such confusion. The capability of the World Postal Union, however, to confront such issues has been proven.

On the production of equipment and the provision of the domestic needs in the telecommunications field, Mr Gharazi said: It is a source of pride for us that a large portion of the equipment needed in the field of telecommunications—which, in my opinion, is the most complicated field of technology after space technology—is produced domestically. He said: These products include complete telecommunications switches, fiber optics, and microwaves, and now we are very actively looking into equipment for the production of ground satellite stations.

Deputy Agriculture Minister on Wheat Cultivation

NC0312071989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] The deputy agriculture minister, who is in Kerman, has stated that in line with the program to increase wheat cultivation in the country, 435,000 hectares of the country's new irrigated land has been cultivated with wheat.

The Central News Unit states that the deputy agriculture minister added that by cultivating 2 million hectares of the country's irrigated land by the end of the 5-year plan for economic, social, and cultural development, wheat production will reach 3 million tonnes. This, along with an increase in yield per unit, will increase wheat production from 1,960 kg to 3.2 tonnes per hectare.

Majles Commission Head Views Agricultural Plans

NC0412223789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Nov 89 p 2

[Text] "The only sector whose plans and proposals have been approved so far by the government under the Five-Year Plan is agriculture," said Hojjat ol-Eslam Fazel Harandi, head of the Agriculture Commission of the Majles (Parliament) here Thursday.

Harandi, three-time elected Majles representative from Esfahan, representative of the Leader in the Seven-Member Land Distribution Committee, and also a member of the Experts Assembly, in an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES said that the government will provide the necessary foreign exchange for the projects aiming at agricultural growth in the country.

He said the problems of agricultural sector will be removed under recently approved article incorporated in the Five-Year Plan which allows agricultural development by using needed exchange even from other sectors' budgets.

When asked about self-sufficiency in agriculture he said, "We can never compete with industrialized countries in industrial products nor can we find a proper market to sell them," but he said, "If we can produce improved agriculture machinery, insecticides and other goods related to agriculture it will be of great help to upgrade agriculture productivity."

Harandi said we have many potentials and sources to manufacture and even export agriculture products but he added "to do this we should program and plan properly."

Elaborating his point of view about agriculture in Iran, he said "One of the Iranian farmers was recently given a model farmer's award by the FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization). He could harvest 7.5 tons of wheat per hectare. We can improve it still more and it will not only meet our local needs bur we can export as well."

Elsewhere he said fruit and summer crops had a high quality production this seaon and we can export them and earn more foreign exchange.

When asked on the approximate area of fertile agriculture lands he said, "Undoubtedly at the moment there are no exact figures available but it is essential that we possess the exact data to devise proper plans."

On the remedy to stop mass exodus of villagers to cities he said, "The government should improve the living conditions of the villagers and provide them educational, hygenic and all other facilities." The Seven-Member Land Distribution Commission has distributed more than 600 hectares of lands to 120,000 villagers to promote the agriculture, he revealed.

When asked about the plans and projects underway to mechanize the agriculture he said, "There is no need to mechanize the agriculture completely according to the existing conditions in Iran today," but added "rather we should change the Iran's irrigation system which is very old compared to modern times and most use the expertise of other countries in this field."

Statistics on Nonoil Exports Released

NC0412070489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Department has announced that nonoil exports in the first 7 months of this year totaled 778,000 tons and had a value of 42.47 billion rials, the equivalent of $606 million.

According to statistics released by the Customs Department, handwoven wool carpets, pistachios, and pistachio kernels, and various kinds of hides and skins top the list

of the country's exports and comprise 55.1 percent of all exports. Among nonoil exports, caviar enjoys fourth position.

The statistics note that nearly 42.5 percent of all exports are dispatched from Bandar-e 'Abbas, while 37 percent are dispatched from Bandar-e Khomeyni. The Mehrabad, Tehran, Kerman and the southern customs departments handle 66.7 percent of all exports.

Deputy Health Minister Addresses AIDS Conference

LD0212145589 Tehran IRNA in English 1230 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA—The 3rd scentific conference on AIDS aimed at educating people to prevent the spread of the fatal disease opened here Saturday, simultaneously with the international day of campaign against AIDS.

Speaking at the opening session, Deputy Health Minister Dr. Mohammad Reza Zali said the anti-AIDS propaganda launched over the past decade had failed to impress drug abusers whom he described as the main source of AIDS virus. "Although the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is not epidemic in our society, however it is necessary to immunize the society, through education, from the dangers posed by the disease," he cautioned. "Homosexual and bisexual men, drug abusers, the users of contaminated blood products and husbands whose wives are carrying AIDS virus are exposed to the fatal disease more than any other groups," the Health Ministry's director general said.

Dr. Bijan Sadr, referring to the quick spread of the deadly illness around the globe, said existing statistics showed that 40 percent of drug addicts in Thailand were afflicted with the disease. So far, 180,000 cases of AIDS have been observed in 145 countries and it is estimated that five million to 10 million people have been afflicted with the disease.

Central Bank To Sell Investment Company Shares

NC0312070489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that in implementation of the government's policy to offer for sale shares in production and service companies belonging to banks and state and private institutions, the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran has offered 100,000 of its shares in the National Iranian Investment Company to the Tehran Stock Exchange for sale to the public.

Narcotics Gang 'Smashed'; Heroin Seized

LD0212174289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] According to an IRNA report, the Khorasan Islamic Revolution Committee announced yesterday that a narcotics smuggling gang was smashed. Seven persons were arrested and 4 kg of heroin and 60 kg of opium were seized during a preplanned operation in Torbat-e Jam.

KEYHAN Editorial Comments on High Prices

PM2411163089 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Oct 89 p 3

[Editorial by Amid Mas'udi: "The End of an Era for Dollar Domination"]

[Text] The second stage of the plan to combat high prices and inflation is ready and will be announced shortly. This was what the president said shortly after his arrival at Orumiyeh airport, raising hopes that the network of economic terrorists in the country would soon be destroyed.

Two weeks ago, during the first phase of the plan, major blows were delivered to the black market middlemen which brought about a wave of support for the government by the people. During the first days of the plan, the middlemen who saw a stagnation in the market, gradually left the dollar alone, and left the arena. The true owners of the black market, however, will think of better days to come and try their best to bring back the old situation. For them it is difficult to see all their cashflow suddenly lose its value. The black market will in the next few days continue to be controlled by the government and the middlemen.

It would be very naive to think of the black market only in terms of a couple of streets in central Tehran. The currency players control the market with their greedy fingers and can with a phone call to Kuwait, London or Dubayy, make all their connections. They make profits from all known and unknown elements and the network of profitseekers continues to make money from the chaos. In the midst of this, wealthy financiers may be forced into some of the following actions:

1. Playing with promissory notes in order to avoid any losses that may have occured as a result of the shock received by the currency market. The government's continued plan will cause new financial trouble for those who issue promissory notes and the money-changers.

2. Not giving dollars to the people who wish to buy from the black market in order to find alternative solutions for the dollars which have now lost their value. Just as during the war the money men used any legal or illegal method to bring currency into the country, they may now wish to export some of this currency. Of course, the alertness of our border guards will prevent this from happening and the people who own billions in currency will be forced to sell their hard currency at reasonable prices.

3. Spreading rumors about the unstable nature of government decisions and insinuating that the old days will come back. The elements that caused a rise in the price

of currency may also sell forged notes, so buyers have to watch very closely for this latest of tricks by money men.

The first stage of the government's plan caused the value of hard currency on the black market to be reduced by 20 percent. To reach this desired level, the government enjoyed full coverage of events by the mass media. This was important because at the precise period when the psychological effects of the plan were about to deliver a sudden blow to the black market, the owners of hard currency tried to spread false rumors to gain some sort of security. This was when the newspapers rushed to help the government alongside the people.

Now, at the start of the third week of the government's new plan to break prices, it can be predicted that the issue of high prices will no longer be the main topic of society; prices will start to enjoy a degree of stability.

The government firmly believes that national currency should be the only means of exchange in the country; under no circumstances should the value of this currency drop. The government and the people gain their power from this same rial and increasing the strength of the rial will bring about at this time of reconstruction, a period of the flowering of economic growth.

ETTELA'AT Editorial on Need for Unity

NC0112175489 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 21 Nov 89 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "Criticizing, Taking Revenge"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] According to Imam Khomeyni, when problems involving individuals or organizations must be debated, reviewed, or subjected to criticism, it should be done with complete adherence to principles and the lofty values of Islam; moreover, certain points must be taken into consideration. If it is necessary to pay attention to these subtleties for the Majles, it is necessary that they be applied to others as well.

The imam said: "...There is no doubt that the Majles supervises all the country's affairs and it is the right of the deputies to prevent any deviations or violations—which they may perceive in the ministries or departments—in accordance with regulations. There is, however, a difference between supervision and interpellation, and fault-finding and revenge. A person's conscience will tell him the real difference between the two.

"With a little contemplation, a person can discern whether or not injunctions by a minister or a government conform with the interests of Islam and God and the country, and there are no other considerations except guidance, avoidance of deviations, and the preservation of interests. One must also learn to differentiate between ambition and malice, friendship and hostility, and whether or not the injunctions are based on carnal desires such as ostentation or self-assertion and other such sensual and Satanic desires." [passage omitted].

In the words of the imam, attention to these subtle but important points is the "first step." As we said earlier, the esteemed Majles deputies are rightfully authorized to combat any violation but they must keep these nuances in mind. Obviously, all the ranks and sections of people in the social, political, or cultural spheres should bear in mind these important and compulsory considerations which are primary and crucial, and they should adhere to them faithfully. [passage omitted]

Do we truthfully keep the above considerations in mind in our dealings with one another, or do we act first and think later?

Pakistan

President Ishaq Khan Addresses Parliament

BK0312105989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0538 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Address by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to a joint session of Parliament at the National Assembly Hall in Islamabad—live]

[Text] Respected parliament members, peace be upon you. I have the honor to address this joint session of the parliament again after 1 year, in keeping with the constitutional requirements. Once again I have the opportunity to express my views to the elected representatives of the people and to meet old friends in the Senate. This second (?opportunity) is certainly a matter of great honor and happiness for me.

The elected assemblies and the democratic governments of the republic and in the provinces have been in existence for 1 year. Therefore, today is the anniversary of the revival of democracy. I extend my heartfelt greetings to the federal and provincial governments, the people's representatives, and each and every citizen of the country on this auspicious occasion [applause] and pray to Almighty God that he continues to shower his blessings on this holy land; protect it from eventualities, conspiracies of others, and our own ignorance; make democracy deep-rooted; and bestow on us the greatness which is sought by the real champions of God's authority in the world.

An anniversary, whether of an individual or an organization, constitutes a milestone when wise people take time amid the confusion of life and turn to the road which has already been traveled and estimate the distance that remains to be covered.

Today, I invite you to join me in this analysis of the past and an assessment of the future. It will be my endeavor to present a balanced picture of the situation by pointing out the significance of successes and without exaggerating the failures. After this assessment of the past, if you feel that your direction, pace, and mode of travel have

been appropriate and satisfactory, then I thank God for this, I am enlightened and happy. If, however, you conclude that the opportunities available were not fully tapped and we failed to achieve what we could have achieved, then we must examine the causes of our failure and accelerate our struggle to achieve the target.

Members of parliament, a festive atmosphere prevailed in the country when I addressed you last year. The nation was filled with a new determination, with new aspirations. There were preparations to welcome a new era of peace and of order, integrity, justice, and equality. There were high expectations for the immediate solution of problems and equal opportunities for progress and prosperity. Since then a year has passed. During this year, the elected representative bodies have displayed their vitality, at least to the extent of debate and discussion. Democratic organizations gained stability and national affairs once again were dealt with by the elected representatives of the people without interference from outsiders. On the other hand, unfortunately, some negative trends emerged and some frustrating situations occurred. If we talk about them, then it will be as [famous Urdu poet] Ghalib said, that flowers were in full bloom all over. However, the situation now is that except for mutual mud slinging, none of the enthusiasm and liveliness which should have been as a sign of democratic reconstruction is visible.

Of course, there were mistakes. However, an impression of inaction is prevalent among the people, shattering the new aspirations. Chaos, violence, and lawlessness have created an atmosphere of fear and panic in several parts of the country, which has caused concern for individual safety and disabled the nation's constructive capabilities, at least to some extent. The responsibility for this situation lies not with one individual, group, or party, but all of us. Collectively, we have so far failed to establish an atmosphere of mutual dialogue, joint action, and healthy cooperation which democracy demands.

You might recall that during my last address to parliament I tried to draw your attention to this imperative need. I have made several other requests which, for unknown reasons, have so far been considered unworthy of attention. I requested that people work with leniency and display a spirit of toleration, but what happened is that even trifling matters caused confrontation on all levels during the past year. I emphasized clean politics, but political stock exchanges and horse-trading [last two terms in English] became words in our political lexicon. I appealed that we should behave toward others as we expect them to behave toward us. So far however, we have failed to develop this broad-mindedness.

I emphasized the constructive role of the Senate in maintaining the unity of the federation and the continuity of the democratic process. But people with irresponsible thoughts have engaged in making this constitutional body a matter of dispute. I spoke of a substantial agenda for legislation, but what has happened is that our critics have taken the opportunity to allege that the legislative bodies of the country, which means the assemblies, do everything except legislate. Numerous ordinances were promulgated last year while parliament approved only six pieces of legislation, and at present nearly 36 ordinances are pending parliamentary consideration. It was my request to create a spirit of toleratant criticism and to avoid opposition for the sake of opposition. What happened, however, was that even good work was obstructed only because it was initiated by the other side or it was feared that the credit for that work would go to the rival group.

I also requested that instead of (?delegating) powers conventionally, measures should be taken for their appropriate devolution. The intention was to respect the responsibilities of the federation and the provinces as prescribed by the constitution and the jurisdictions set for the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary. What is actually happening today is that everyone is accusing everyone else of transgressing the prescribed limits.

I emphasized complete adherence to Islam to ensure the country's Islamic identity and its existence and progress, and drew attention to the need for completing the incomplete agenda for Islamization. However, no noteworthy progress has been achieved as yet. No time was available even for discussion of 51 reports presented by the Islamic Ideology Council and the time was wasted instead on points of order and various other motions in parliament. These reports are related to various aspects of Islamic teaching and consist of important recommendations and proposals which can transform our national life in line with Islamic teaching, conforming to the requirements of the Objective Resolutions [of the Constitution].

I regret to say that the Shari'a [Islamic jurisprudence] Bill has been pending at the Senate for the last 3 years. Also, it still needs to be approved by the National Assembly. What I fear is that if things continue in this manner, then some of us will have died by the time it is passed. By saying this, I do not intend to hurt you, but my objective is to sincerely convey thoughts which, according to my knowledge and belief, are causing anxiety and concern in the minds of millions of people in Pakistan.

You are the representatives of the people. You must be aware of the people's thoughts. I do not see any harm—in fact I consider it my duty—to remind this house, which is the manifestation of the people's aspirations and their collective wisdom, about the nation's general health because ultimately it is you, the representatives of the people, who will have to shoulder the burden of the nation. Personally, I have full confidence in the improvement in the current situation. I have full confidence in the self-correcting dynamism [last two words in English] which is an essential element in a democratic system. And by virtue of this confidence, I am hopeful of an improvement in the current situation.

Democracy means to respect the people's aspirations. Democracy is a language of understanding and reconciliation. In politics, the principle of live and let live is

called democracy, but unfortunately, we [words indistinct] have so far failed to fully conform to this standard. Of course, we respected the people's aspirations, but only to a limit. We continue to talk of understanding and reconciliation, but cannot succeed in moving toward this goal, whatever the reasons, because we have the habit of defining democracy according to our own will and insist on the validity of our definition. Consequently, an impression is gaining ground that despite efforts being made by far-sighted people, the gap between political groups is widening instead of narrowing.

This situation should be corrected to ensure the stability of democracy and to maintain the people's unflinching faith in it. If the Berlin Wall can be demolished with the people's pressure, then why cannot we demolish in the interest of the nation those walls which we have unnecessarily built in our minds? We must establish a positive and stable relationship through understanding and reconciliation between the ruling and opposition parties on the one hand, and between the federation and the provinces on the other, to improve the administrative performance despite the differences in perspectives and help in the creation of a constructive [words indistinct] atmosphere instead of negative confrontation.

Members of parliament, as I mentioned earlier, our Constitution clearly identifies the rights and responsibilities of the federation and the provinces, and provides rules and procedures and appropriate organizations to arrive at agreed solutions of common issues. The formulators of the Constitution set up organizations such as the Council of Common Interests, the National Finance Commission, and the Islamic Ideology Council with the objective that they would devise policies in the collective interests of the country, which will reflect the common thought of the people while respecting the prescribed limits of provincial autonomy. These organizations were formed to ensure parliamentary supervision on relevant institutions, arrange a just sharing of resources between the federation and the provinces, and bring the nation closer to its ideological destination through expert guidance. The objective was to check misunderstandings which might emerge through dialogue and negotiation and to make arrangements to deal with complaints, thereby ensuring the smooth running of the federal system and the stability of the federation. National interests will be promoted and not suppressed if these organizations are allowed to function. We should not unjustifiably criticize the prudence of the creators of the Constitution by expressing doubts about the utility of these organizations. It should be remembered that people in developing countries are not attracted to democracy only because it is a beautiful concept; the common people are more interested in the practical use of democracy than its philosophical value or its ideological attraction. The people's attachment to democracy is based on a faith that basic rights will be protected, justice will uphold one's own dignity, opportunities for progress will be available, and problems will be solved through their own participation. If, despite democracy, complaints of injustice are heard, an impression of corruption crops up, the pace of progress slows, and problems remain unresolved. Then the people's confidence in democracy will obviously be shattered.

It is being said that a situation is arising in some parts of the country today in which the life, property, and honor of the people are not safe. Incidents of kidnapping for ransom are becoming a profession and a routine affair. It is being said that the people are being deprived of the right to settle and work anywhere in the country. Separatists and terrorists are challenging the country's stability, security, and present geographical setup. It is the duty of all members of this august house, irrespective of their political affiliations, to cooperate with and guide the government in dealing with this situation. No one should have any doubt about the fact that the country's ideological foundations, geographical integrity, and national unity will be maintained in all circumstances and at all costs, and that all forces which try to create obstacles in this way will be dealt with firmly. It is my fervent appeal to you that this house should declare this determination in unequivocal terms.

This parliament is the most sacred body of the country, the trustee of the people's sovereignty, and the symbol of their confidence. No person and no institution is more dignified or respectable than this house. If anyone is higher than this, it is the millions of people of Pakistan, who are the real rulers of this country and who, through their elected representatives, have given their own right of representation granted by God as a trust to this house. It is to be remembered that a trustee enjoys only a temporary privilege to use anything entrusted to him, and then only with the approval of the original owner. If anyone uses the mandate given by the people against their aspirations, it is the worst kind of breach of trust, which in God's eye is a great tyranny, and God cannot tolerate tyranny for long.

If, after securing the people's vote on a certain promise of representing a particular viewpoint, any elected representative finds it impossible to adhere to that position due to a change in views, or for personal reasons, or due to any constraint, the best moral and religious step for him would be to return the burden of the people's trust to its rightful owners and to try to seek the people's support and endorsement for his changed viewpoints once again, instead of committing the crime of breaching their trust. [applause] This is demanded by religion and ethics and also by the democratic principle that a condition of stability is that political loyalty should be maintained. If a change in political loyalties becomes a regular phenomenon and if party affiliations under whose banner votes were secured are not respected, the party-based parliamentary system will be practically converted into a nonparty body. This will constitute a breach of the people's aspirations and a negation of the claims of the political parties. It is for you to think whether or not any amendment should be made to the country's laws to discourage this trend.

Ladies and gentlemen. In my speech last year, besides political issues, I also referred to the difficult economic and financial situation facing the country and underscored the need to pay immediate attention to rising prices, unemployment, the foreign debt burden, and other such problems. One could not expect all these problems would be solved within a year. Positive results may be expected if the economic policies adopted by the government last year are implemented with sincerity and complete determination. In the budget speech, and also partly in the prime minister's address to the nation yesterday, you heard the details of the steps taken by the government to create financial stability, improve tax collection, reconstruct economic policies, and create a solid infrastructure for increasing production and investment and for development. As you might recall, the notable features of the economic strategy include laying stress on austerity and economy, and strict fiscal management. The government hopes that the budgetary deficit and government debt burden will be considerably reduced as a result of these measures. The statistics received so far for the current year testify to this fact. [applause]

It is correct that due to restructuring of the government's tax policies and prices, the prices of some commodities have increased considerably, and this has affected the common man. But, according to the estimate of the Statistics Division, the overall rate of inflation has been considerably reduced this year, compared with last year. [applause] The government gives top priority to bringing the rate of inflation down to tolerable levels, and to achieve this objective it intends to increase fiscal management and boost the production and distribution of essential commodities.

As you know, the rate of economic growth in 1988-89 was less than that of the previous year, and the basic reason for this was the decline in industrial production to an unusual level. This also destroyed encouraging signs of decisive improvement in the performance of the agricultural sector. Industrial production recorded only 1 percent growth compared with the previous year's growth rate of 10.55 percent. The causes of this negative trend should be analyzed and efforts made to eliminate the factors which are causing this alarming situation.

The government is aware that the overall current level of investment in Pakistan is not encouraging. The government has taken several steps to improve the current situation. The procedure for granting approval for industrial projects has been simplified. An investment board has been set up under the chairmanship of the prime minister, which has approved projects worth 41 billion rupees so far. The special foreign investment cell has been expanded, private investment is being generally encouraged, and tax concessions are being provided for investments in the industrial sector. It is expected that these measures will encourage investment in the industrial sector which can be made more productive by improving the law and order situation and creating a sense of security in relevant areas.

Improving the balance of payments position is included in the government's list of priorities. Unfortunately, no signs of the expected improvement have emerged in this area so far. The revised target of cotton exports is being maintained, but earnings from exports are not increasing. It is, however, a matter of satisfaction that remittances from Pakistanis working abroad have increased considerably and the flow of aid from the International Monetary Fund and from friendly countries has been more than expected, which has helped in overcoming the country's economic problems.

The government is trying to free the economy of those restrictions affecting economic growth and to diversify it. Hence, a bold and innovative privatization strategy has been evolved with the help of experts having experience at international level. The government is hopeful that this step will result in increased savings and investment and will help bring revolutionary changes in the management and ownership structure of industries.

An economically difficult year is going to end. In the coming days, the current political leadership, both at the federal and provincial level, will have to shoulder important responsibilities. They will have to rise above their personal interests and differences to successfully discharge those responsibilities and to accept the results of the political process. They will have to stop taking those steps which have caused waste in the national energy sector and to cooperate in providing the maximum facilities of life to the people. In this connection, the People's Program [socioeconomic welfare program launched by the Pakistan People's Party] is designed to ensure the welfare and well-being of the people. But, the differences between the federal government and some provinces over the constitutional interpretation of their jurisdiction are creating hurdles in its implementation. If powers and responsibilities are determined through mutual discussion and understanding, the implementation of this program of providing facilities to the people can be completed soon for the greater good of the people. Cooperation and further attention are also needed in many other areas of social life. There is an unabated trend of growth in the population. Here we are also facing the international responsibility of providing facilities to all sections of the population by the year 2000. Whether it is a question of providing shelter to the homeless or the promotion of education, we will have to utilize our national resources and energies unitedly and with sincerity and caution in the best interests of the nation. The government has initiated certain good plans in these fields, but it is impossible for the government to shoulder this burden alone. The private sector and charitable persons should generously assist in these tasks, because it is in this way that all vital nations march forward on the path of development. The success of some other government institutions also requires the people's cooperation. The positive steps that the government wants to take to accomplish tasks to curb smuggling, eliminate the narcotics menace, and promote Islamic values of honesty, civility, and labor also require

the support and contribution of all right-thinking people. Some measures have already been taken and more will be taken by the government.

The government is also attaching special importance to the welfare of women. Women have been accorded an honorable place in society and assigned a very constructive role by Islam. But women's status and their role cannot be guaranteed unless and until arrangements for their education are made, economic protection is provided ,and their participation in national affairs is ensured. [applause] But, while drawing up plans for this purpose, it must be kept in mind that Islamic values and our cultural traditions, like respect for women, their modesty, sanctity and honor, must be preserved.

Ladies and gentlemen. Major dramatic changes occurred at the international level last year. A new chapter of understanding between East and West was opened, forces of peace were strengthened, and hopes for a safer and more pleasant future for the mankind were reinforced.

Major changes have also taken place in the political scenario of our region. The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the end of the Iran-Iraq war, the understanding between the Soviet Union and China, and movement in India-Pakistan relations are certainly important steps in the direction of global peace and security. While keeping in view these changes at the global and regional levels, we should adhere to the basic principles of our foreign policy. We desire peaceful and friendly relations with all countries on the basis of the principles of sovereignty, equality, and noninterference. We are striving for peace with respect and fruitful cooperation in the world in general and in our region in particular, so that we may continue to work with full dedication for the progress and prosperity of our people.

The Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan early this year was a historic event which symbolized the victory of justice over force. It was a victory of the courageous struggle of the Afghan mujahidin for independence and sovereignty. We take great pride in the fact that Pakistan constantly fulfilled its Islamic and humanitarian responsibility of assisting and helping its Afghan brothers in this struggle. Of course, we regret that peace has not yet been established in Afghanistan. Pakistan wants a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghan issue. We would like to see the establishment of a broad-based government in Afghanistan which will be the real representative of the people so that the refugees can return to their homes with honor and dignity. We welcomed the formation of the Afghan Interim Government in February this year. We fully support this government and will continue to assist it for a just and durable solution of the Afghan dispute. We will also strive to see that the Soviet Union in no way succeeds in maintaining the illegal puppet communist government which it imposed on the Afghan people. If the Soviet Union seriously wants a political settlement of this issue, it should review its present policy which totally contradicts the aspirations of the Afghan people.

As far as our eastern neighbor is concerned, we want to establish good relations in line with our clear perception of our interests and practical needs. The Indian prime minister paid two visits to Pakistan during the last 10 months. Apart from this, several meetings were also held at ministerial and official levels. A meeting of the Pakistan-India joint commission was also held after several years. An agreement was reached to settle the Siachen Glacier dispute. But unfortunately, the agreement has not been implemented in line with our expectations so far. I hope India implements this understanding reached by the defense secretaries of the two countries.

The massive increase in India's military might, the production of the Agni medium-range ballistic missile, and the acquisition of nuclear submarines is a cause of concern for Pakistan. The agreement with India on not attacking each other's nuclear installations was the government's significant success. This was a positive and timely step toward mutual confidence. We expect that the Indian Government will adopt a positive attitude on bilateral or regional talks to arrive at an agreement on banning nuclear tests. We are willing to consider any just and nondiscriminatory proposal to make this region a nuclear weapon-free zone.

Regarding the Jammu and Kashmir issue, there can be no compromise. [prolonged applause] We will never withdraw our support from the Jammu and Kashmir people's right to self-determination through a neutral plebiscite.

The Indian Government agreed in 1986 to suspend the construction of the Wular Barrage until negotiations on the issue were concluded. The government believes the issue will soon be resolved in a cordial atmosphere and in accordance with the constitutional requirements.

We also hope that the Indian Government will protect its Muslim minority. Despite a court verdict, the construction of a [Hindu] temple on the site of Babri Mosque caused communal riots in which many Muslims were martyred. We hope the Indian Government will take appropriate steps for the protection of holy places of minorities.

Our friendship with the United States bears special significance. It is based on the common perception of establishing peace and stability in the region. The United States played an important role in Pakistan's economic progress and in strengthening her defense capability. The restoration of democracy in Pakistan had a very positive impression in the United States. The reception accorded to the Pakistani prime minister during her visit to the United States reflects how much importance the United States attaches to democratic Pakistan. The proposal for aid of $621 million to Pakistan for 1989-90 and the agreement to supply 60 F-16 aircraft as well clearly points to this importance.

Although Pakistan-Soviet relations were affected by the Afghanistan issue, the two countries hold identical views

on some other international issues. A solution of the Afghan issue will definitely play an important role in furthering relations between the two countries. The Soviet foreign minister visited Pakistan in February this year, the first visit of a Soviet foreign minister to Pakistan. Pakistan and the Soviet Union have now embarked upon expanding their relations in the economic field. The Soviet Union has agreed to provide $100 million for the expansion of the Pakistan Steel Mill. Several other projects are also under consideration. It will be our endeavor to strengthen our relations with the Soviet Union in various fields. The recently constituted joint ministerial commission is part of this endeavor.

Our relations with China are exemplary and have stood the test of time. China is the most dependable friend of Pakistan and Pakistan attaches such importance to this friendship that the Pakistani prime minister chose China for her first state visit. [applause] Recently, the Chinese prime minister visited Pakistan, and in addition to cooperation in other fields, he announced that China would supply a nuclear reactor to Pakistan. [applause] We believe that Pakistan-China relations will further develop in the years to come.

We have been making and will continue to make selfless efforts for the unity and solidarity of the Islamic community. We have always raised our voice in favor of the interests and the position of the Islamic and Arab world. We have always supported the Palestinian people's right of self-determination and their right to establish their own state. We have officially recognized the State of Palestine and have always remained at the forefront in opposing the Israeli occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories. We maintain fraternal relations with Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and other Islamic countries, which are reinforced by our religious, cultural, and historical ties. The government is fully determined not to allow any slackness in efforts to promote friendship and cooperation with them.

We also view with great respect our relations with Western countries and Japan and are thankful for their aid and cooperation in our economic development. We are aware of the effects of the merger of the West European economies in 1992 and hope that it will not make any difference to the warmth of our relationship.

We will continue our support for freedom movements in Africa and for the elimination of the neocolonialist system in Africa and will firmly stand on the side of those struggling against the tyrannical system of apartheid. [applause] We will continue to play our fullest role for peace, good will, understanding, and cooperation in all international and regional forums, including the United Nations, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and the Commonwealth. Pakistan's reentry into the Commonwealth with honor and dignity after a lapse of 17 years is a major achievement of the government. [applause] This has provided one more forum for Pakistan to voice its position and to benefit from numerous programs.

The government's success in the field of foreign relations has enhanced the prestige of the country and brightened the prospects for peace and progress. [applause] These successes have generated new confidence in the nation, but it does not mean that we should neglect the requirements of safeguarding our independence and territorial integrity.

Pakistan is a peace-loving nation. We desire to see peace in the world in general and in this region in particular. We will, however, not flinch from taking any step to safeguard our territorial integrity and sovereignty and will continue to make every possible effort to modernize and strengthen national defense, despite financial constraints. We are building our Air Force on very modern lines. Our government's interest in defense requirements is clearly borne out by the 60 additional F-16 aircraft which we are acquiring with domestic resources. The government has also acquired eight more vessels to end the imbalance in naval strength. Steps are also being taken to enable the Army to acquire modern equipment to meet defense requirements. Apart from this, several military technical organizations have been reorganized to ensure effective defense of the country. As you are aware, for the first time in Pakistan's history, a modern, well-coordinated, and orderly military exercise codenamed "Zarb-i-Momin" is being organized, which will cover the entire country. This exercise is designed to test our defense capability in the face of any aggression. I am confident that this exercise will help in further strengthening our defense forces [applause] and will generate in them a new spirit, a new determination for serving their motherland.

Ladies and gentlemen. Pakistan is the fruit of sacrifices of past generations, the center of hopes of the present generation, and a trust for coming generations. It is our foremost duty to work selflessly and untiringly to realize the objective of maintaining its stability, progress, and honor. If we neglect this sacred duty, we will feel ashamed of ourselves in front of the nation and our God. I am confident you will fully realize your responsibilities and demonstrate the same sincerity, dedication, and honesty in discharging these responsibilities as are expected by the nation. (?Prosperity) and future success also depend on you. The nation's eyes are set on you. Please do not disappoint them. May God be your supporter and benefactor. Amen. All our prayers are to God, the Lord of both the worlds. Long Live Pakistan!

Press Reports on Attack on Siachen Post Denied

BK0412163389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The press reports about an attack by Pakistani forces on (Garmi) post in the Siachen area have been described as totally baseless.

A press release from the ISPR [Interservice Public Relations] in Islamabad today said that no such attack was carried out. The press release added that minimum number of forces are being deployed on the posts set up on such altitudes and attacks there are neither possible nor practicable. The press release also said there was no other activity in the Siachen area recently except routine exchange of fire.

Spokesman Says No Soviet POW's Being Detained

BK0212155789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in a letter to President Bush, has expressed confidence that the Afghanistan issue will certainly be reviewed at the summit meeting between him and President Gorbachev which began at Malta today. She said Pakistan is committed to a peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue and believes that restoration of the nonaligned status of Afghanistan and the establishment of a broad-based government there is the effective and practical solution of the issue. The present Kabul regime is the remnant of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and constitutes a major hurdle on the way of a peaceful settlement of the issue, thereby prolonging the suffering of the people in that country.

Giving details of the letter, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan has positively responded to any move for a peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan issue and it will welcome any move by the UN secretary general in this regard.

The spokesman said that Pakistan has helped secure the release of two Soviet prisoners of war on humanitarian grounds. He categorically denied that any Soviet prisoner of war is detained in Pakistan.

Bhutto Congratulates New Indian Prime Minister

BK0212133589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has felicitated the new Indian prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, on his assuming the office. In a message to Mr V.P. Singh, the prime minister said that it is in the common interest of both the countries to remove the irritants which have vitiated relations between the two countries in the past so that both could move forward with confidence and trust toward normalization of relations. In this regard, she assured that the democratic government of Pakistan will make its full contribution toward strengthening peace and stability in the region. The prime minister said that she is looking forward to work for a new era in relations between the two countries on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual benefit.

President Greets New Indian Prime Minister

BK0412033089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has extended greetings to Mr V.P. Singh on his assumption of the office of prime minister of India. In his message, the president said it is Pakistan's earnest desire to establish goodneighborly and cooperative relations with India based on sovereign equality and mutual benefit. This is essential for peace and stability and economic progress of our region.

Bhutto Sends Message of Support to Aquino

BK0212090989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] In a message to President Aquino, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has expressed deep sorrow and concern over the alleged bid to topple the Government of the Philippines, in which a number of people have been killed.

Expressing solidarity with the people of the Philippines, Ms Benazir Bhutto expressed the hope that with the total support of the people, Mrs Aquino will make efforts to ensure the security of democracy and constitutional government.

Spokesman Refutes Statement on Saudi Plane

BK0212154889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] An official spokesman in Islamabad has refuted the report published in the press concerning the interior minister's statement to the Saudi newspaper, AL-MADINAH, which said that there was evidence of possible Iranian involvement in the recent attempt to sabotage a Saudi jet passenger plane. The spokesman clarified that the interior minister gave no statement to any newspaper on the incident and the report is totally baseless.